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Thursday, April 10, 1997

THE

CHART

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE, JOPLIN, MO 64801-1595
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NFL BOUND?

SPORTS:

Can these two Lions excel in the pro ranks?...page 11

ADMISSIONS

College may tap 100-plus-hour student base



By J.L. GRIFFIN
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Untapped. That's what they've been called, but the keg of students who have 100-plus hours and didn't finish college will be tapped by Missouri Southern.

An initiative at Southern is in its early stages, but Dr. Delores Honey, director of assessment and institutional research, said the plan is all part of the College's focus on retention.

Honey said no specific program has been initiated, but the College has made attempts to contact a number of people out of the close to 1,200 former Southern students who have 100-plus credit hours but no degree.

"What we're trying to do is look at programs already on campus that are doing that," she said.

Retention of students has become the focus of many programs on campus in recent years.

Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs, said many programs on campus are aimed

at retaining students. Staff members in those divisions are being trained to catch the waning student interest. "It's more of a moral issue for ourselves," Bitterbaum said.

Even though garnering 10 percent of the 100-plus group back to school would result in substantial funds for the College, Bitterbaum said it wasn't a matter of money.

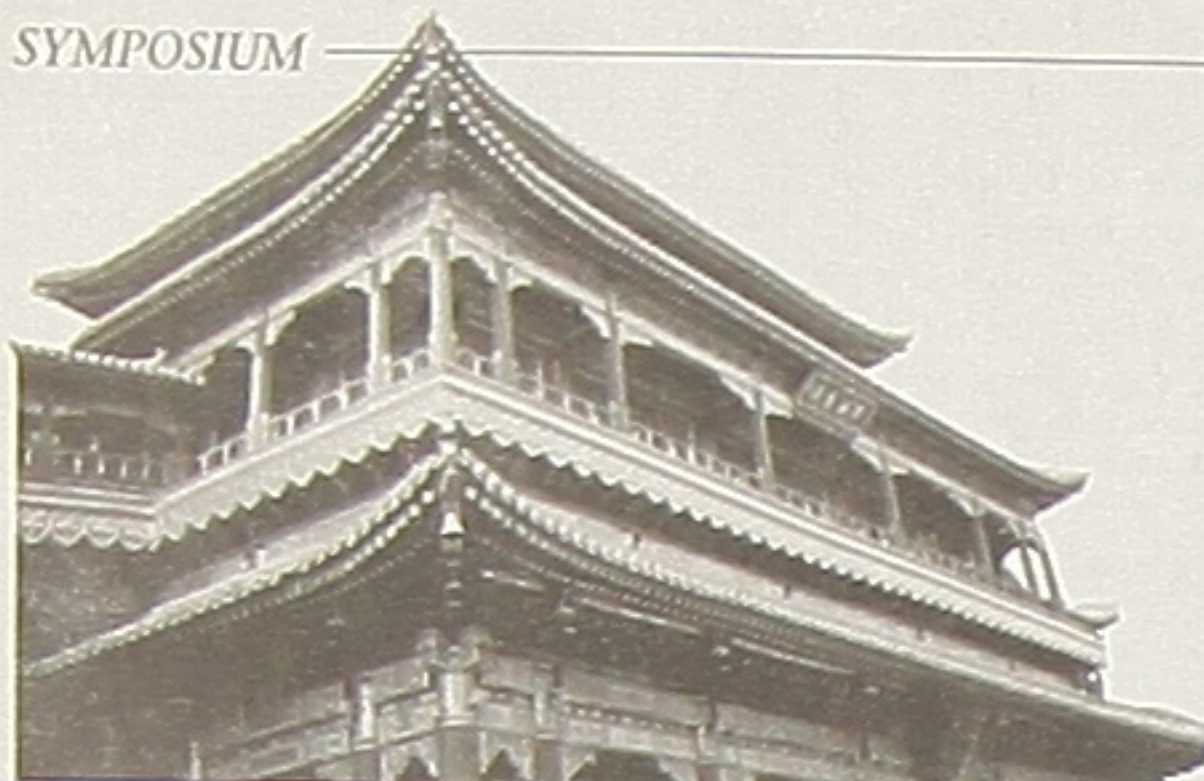
"It's very important for a variety of reasons," he said. "Think how disappointed [someone] would be if [they] didn't accomplish their goals. So, from a

moral standpoint, it's a very important issue."

Research provided at a recent meeting of Southern's strategic planning committee indicated that most former students contacted said they hadn't returned to receive a degree because of money and personal issues. "Some of them came back, but it was always their intention to come back," Bitterbaum said.

The idea was thrown around at the meeting to discount tuition to these students. Honey, however, said nothing was concrete. □

SYMPOSIUM



Assignment:

HONG KONG

April 10:
Hong Kong's future
April 17:
Gockel Symposium
April 24:
The China Semester
May 1:
The Chart's voyage



ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



Leon says new motto here to stay

By GINNY DUMOND
CAMPUS EDITOR

Class schedules have come out for the fall semester and along with them the introduction of a new motto, which according to College President Julio Leon, is here to stay.

The new motto, which reads, "A State University for the 21st Century," is sending the right message, Leon said.

"The motto is just a way of indicating that the College does offer a high level of education," he said. "One that is comparable to that of a university."

Leon said the motto shows other universities and prospective students the direction the College is heading.

"We want people to realize we are an institution that is forward-thinking," he said. Another major reason for the change is a result of Missouri Southern's international mission.

According to Leon, the use of the word "university" in the new motto is to reduce confusion in communicating Southern's status to other learning institutions world-wide.

"In many parts of the world, a college is the name for high school," he explained. "We just want them to understand our educational status."

The possibility of Southern becoming a state university surfaced again earlier this semester when Rep. Gary Burton (R-Joplin) considered proposing a bill that would have changed the name of the College in 1998.

Leon said there were a couple of reasons for Burton's decision not to enter the bill, one of which had to do with another piece of education legislation already on the docket for this session. Leon, however, thinks the College has a legitimate case for vying to become a university.

"We are a strong educational institution looking toward the future," he said.

Michael Fletcher, junior biology major, said he would like to see Southern become a university.

"The 'university' title just sounds more prestigious," Fletcher said. "I'm all for it."

An opposing view was expressed by sophomore undecided major Farra Niehoff.

"I enjoy the small college atmosphere," she said. "I don't want us to raise costs or get too big." As for the possibility of raising costs, if and when the name changes, Leon says there is no real need.

"The College will have to do nothing except change the stationery and the sign," he said.

Many state universities offer master's degree programs, but Leon said Southern will not worry about developing such programs.

"We will concentrate on being a good, solid undergraduate teaching-oriented university," he said. □



Leon

THE CHINA EXPERIENCE

Gubera foresees vast changes concerning Hong Kong

Symposium to feature 4 speakers

Hong Kong is the focus of the inaugural edition of The Harry and Berniece Gockel International Symposium at Missouri Southern at 7 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in Webster Hall auditorium.

Nationally recognized speakers will take part in the examination of the economic and political implications of this unique event in history — the peaceful handing over to a Communist power of one of the world's foremost centers of capitalistic trade and finance.

"Hong Kong in Transition: The Transfer of Sovereignty to China" is the theme of the two-day symposium. On Monday, former U.S. senator Paul Simon will present the first address, "Hong Kong and Meaning of America."

Leslie H. Gelb, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, will present the second address, "Hong Kong, China, and American Foreign Policy." Presentations on Tuesday will feature Richard Baum, professor of political science at the University of California-Los Angeles, addressing "Hong Kong's Effects on China's Internal Politics and Stability," and Richard N. Haass, director of the Foreign Policy Studies at The Brookings Institution, discussing "The International Dimensions of the Transfer."

Admission to the event is free of charge, but tickets must be acquired at the Institute of International Studies to attend. □

By RICK ROGERS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Conrad Gubera has experienced the Hong Kong culture first-hand.

Because of his adventures in the Orient, the professor of sociology at Missouri Southern is using his love for Asian culture as a tool to pique interest within the student body.

Gubera, who traveled through China between June 6 and Aug. 7, 1995, with the East-West Center of the University of Hawaii, is utilizing his hands-on experiences for his first class focusing on China, Chinese Culture and Civilization. His summer travels took him through a tour of China's industrial Pacific Rim, including Hong Kong.

It seems Gubera's attempt to teach his students Chinese tradition has come at an opportune time.

Southern, which will be operating under the theme "The China Semester" next fall, will play host to The Harry and Berniece Gockel International Symposium Monday and Tuesday. The two-day event will discuss the economic and political implications concerning the handover of Hong Kong to China beginning July 1.

Gubera said he realizes there is no better time than the present to improve student awareness of China heading into the 21st century.

Even though many Hong Kong citizens are leaving the Communist-bound country for democratic lands, Gubera said the people who plan to live in Hong Kong after July 1 should be prepared for tremendous change within a short time period.

"They should look for a difference as far as their expression," he said. "Even if they don't get any heavy handedness from the government, they could be scared for a little while. I would imagine that we could see the productivity of Hong Kong dip immeasurably."

While attending the Asian Studies and Development Program in Chicago in March, Gubera said many Chinese analysts stated Hong Kong may bow to Shanghai as Asia's business center for many reasons.

"They said Hong Kong was essential to solidify the Pacific Rim for the Chinese," Gubera said. "And Hong Kong will be a stepping stone to the new Shanghai. They feel Shanghai will emerge as the new crown jewel of the Pacific Rim."

One reason Shanghai might become China's main business center in the future is because Hong Kong has reached mass capacity. Gubera said other reason behind China's push to promote Shanghai is to bring the business emphasis back to mainland China.

"Hong Kong is about through building," Gubera said. "There is not a lot



Courses with Chinese theme for Fall 1997

- Beginning Chinese 1
- Beginning Chinese 2
- History of China
- Geography of Asia
- Chinese Culture and Civilization



DR. CONRAD GUBERA/Special to The Chart
Dr. Conrad Gubera provides a great view of the Great Wall of China through his camera in July of 1995.

that can be built along the harbors or the strategic areas. It is really well built up. It has been built by outside resources. There is a lot of money from Europe and corporate interest from the

TURN TO HONG KONG, PAGE 5

Upcoming China semester events

April 14-15: The Harry and Berniece Gockel Symposium, "Hong Kong in Transition: The Transfer of Sovereignty to China."

June 21-July 17: The Chart's exclusive coverage of the transfer of Hong Kong and the intriguing culture of China.



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Even though the participants are the focus of the Special Olympics at Missouri Southern, the 'special' volunteers also benefit from their experiences during the event.....page 3

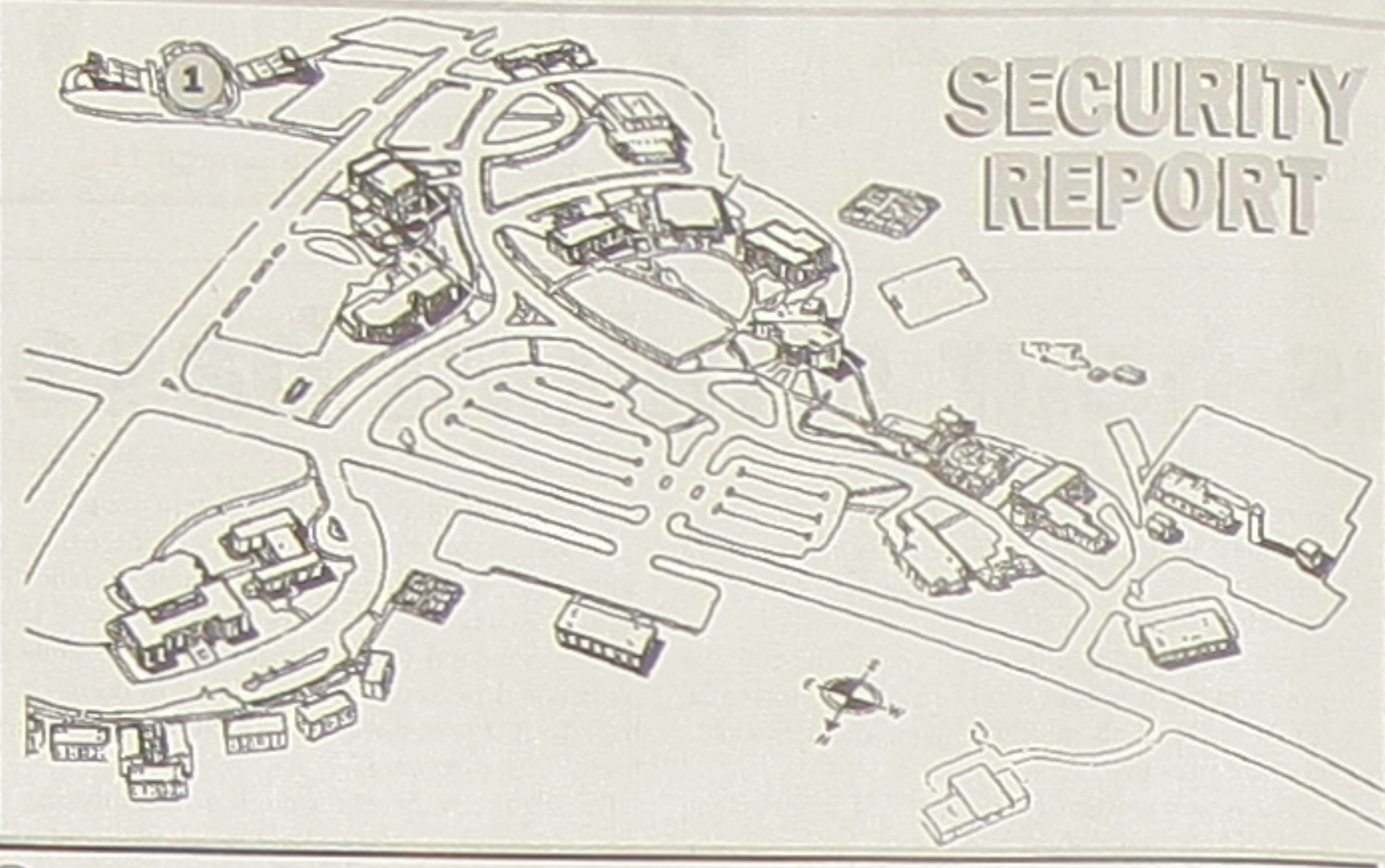


A different bedtime story

AROUND CAMPUS:

A mother and her son help each other through their College adventures.....page 6





SECURITY REPORT

1 4/2/97 STADIUM 8 p.m. Security officer Everett L. Howard was called to the east gate of the stadium in reference to some property destruction.

All proceeds of all advertising go to The Chart, the student newspaper of Missouri Southern State College.

MISSOURI COLLEGE MEDIA ASSOCIATION

'Chart' wins 'Best in State'

Staff wins 19 awards;
Rogers takes honor

Missouri Southern's student newspaper *The Chart* was named "Best in State," and editor-in-chief Rick Rogers was selected Missouri College Journalist of the Year Saturday during the annual Missouri College Media Association convention.

The two-day convention at the Adam's Mark hotel in Kansas City attracted a record 275 journalism students and faculty from 25 colleges and universities across the state.

The Chart competed in Division 2, which also consisted of Truman State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Northwest Missouri State University, Missouri Western, and Webster University. As the winner of the "Best Overall Newspaper" award in Division 2, *The Chart* competed against the University of Missouri (Division 1 winner), Southwest Baptist University (Division 3), and Longview Community College (Division 4) for the "Best in State" title.

The Chart reclaimed the "Best in State" distinction from Truman State University, which won the award in 1995 and 1996. *The Chart* was named "Best in State" in 1994.

Rogers was paired against six other student editors in the Missouri College Journalist of the Year competition. He had to submit a résumé, samples of his work, and letters of recommendation to a four-member selection committee that interviewed the candidates Friday night.

"Being one of seven Southern students to be named Missouri College Journalist of the Year in *Chart* history is an honor I am very proud of," Rogers said. "But I am also very lucky to have a talented and dedicated staff working by my side. Without each staff member my job would be quite a challenge."

Rogers becomes the seventh *Chart* editor to take the honor, following T.R. Hanrahan in 1995, Christopher Clark in 1991, Mark Ernstmann in 1988, Clark Swanson in 1979, Liz DeMerice in 1977, and Tim Dry in 1976.

The Chart also received 19 other awards Saturday in Division 2:

- J.L. Griffin, first place, Feature Writing
- Nelson Webb, first place, Investigative Reporting
- Stephanie Goad, first place, Regular Column
- Rick Rogers, first place, Best Page One Design
- The *Chart* staff, first place, Best Editorial/OpEd Section
- Jason Owen and Nick Parker, first place, Best Sports Page
- Deborah Solomon, first place, Best Photo Page
- Ryan Bronson, first place, Best Feature Page

Chart's Big Guns

Seven 'Chart' editors have been honored as the state's Journalist of the Year:

- Tim Dry 1976
- Liz DeMerice 1977
- Clark Swanson 1979
- Mark Ernstmann 1988
- Christopher Clark 1991
- T.R. Hanrahan 1995
- Rick Rogers 1997

- The *Chart* staff, first place, Special Supplement/Section
- Rick Rogers, second place, Sports Column
- John Smith, second place, Sports Photography
- Andrea Wilkinson, second place, Political/Editorial Cartooning
- Ryan Bronson, second place, Information Graphics
- The *Chart* staff, second place, Special Supplement/Section
- Deborah Solomon and Stephanie Goad, third place, News Writing
- Rick Rogers, Nick Parker, and Ginny Dumond, third place, Sports Writing
- Rick Rogers, third place, In-Depth News Reporting
- Margo Strait, third place, Advertising
- Ryan Bronson, third place, Information Graphics

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- Ayingen
- Alt Drunkel
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- Ur-Weisse
- Bitburger Pils
- Celebrator Doppelbock
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- Salvator
- Pinkus Ur-Pils
- Pinkus Weizen
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- St. Pauli Girl
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- Bajuvator
- Hefe Weizen
- Hefe Weizen Dark
- Kristal Weizen
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- Boddington Pub Ale
- Double Diamond
- Fuller's London Pride

- Royal Oak Pale Ale
- Samuel Smith
- Nut Brown Ale
- Imperial Stout
- Oatmeal Stout
- Pale Ale
- Taddy Porter
- Winter Welcome
- Theakson's Old Peculiar
- Thomas Hardy Ale
- Welsh Ale
- Welsh Festival Ale
- Young's
- Oatmeal Stout
- Old Nick Barley Wine
- Special London Ale

Ireland

- Murphy's Irish Amber
- Murphy's Irish Stout

Jamaica

- Red Stripe

Japan

- Sapporo

Mexico

- Corona

Netherlands

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- Grolsch Amber
- Heineken Dark

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Dustin Turk, Mount Vernon, celebrates a winning effort at last year's Special Olympics softball throw event. Nearly 800 athletes are expected to take part in this year's competition.

'Special' athletes ready to compete

By STEPHANIE WARD
EDUCATION EDITOR

Let me win; but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.

This is the oath taken by the athletes of the Special Olympics. Many of these athletes will be competing in the events at Missouri Southern's Fred G. Hughes Stadium.

Opening ceremonies will begin around 9:30 a.m. and finish around 2 to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, April 18.

"We'll have at least 800 athletes competing," said Dr. Michael Banks, associate professor of education.

The age groups are divided into six male/female categories ranging from: 5-7, 8-11, 12-15, 16-21, 22-29, and 30 and up.

The scheduled events include a 50-meter dash, 100-meter dash, 200-meter dash, 400-meter dash, 400-meter relay, mile run, mile relay, shot put, wheelchair races, softball throw, standing long jump, and running long jump, according to Jon Lantz, head football coach and kinesiology instructor.

In addition to the track and field events, there will be events in the gymnasium for children who are "severely physically impaired," Banks said.

"We'll have some events in the gymnasium for very fragile children," he said. "They will be competing in physical therapy activities."

Banks, who has been volunteering for 20 years, said these events will be things like placing beanbags into boxes and trying for better time trials.

To help run these events, volunteers are needed. Both Lantz and Banks give their time each year, along with recruiting others

as well. Lantz's volunteers help with the track meet events and Banks' assistants help with other areas.

Lantz said one of the reasons he and his football team began helping "was to provide [Special Olympics] with the volunteer labor they needed."

"We took this on as one of our community projects just to provide the labor for the actual running of the events," he said. "I'm not meet director; I don't have a title with the Special Olympics or anything. I just could see that they needed help."

"What we do is try to provide them the number of volunteers they need so all the Special Olympics people have to worry about is just getting their kids there and having them participate. We feel like in the athletics program, we have a little bit of expertise in that area."

Volunteers usually report to a table set up in the stadium and are directed to various areas needing help from there, Banks said.

Those interested in helping can report to the volunteer table between 9 a.m. and noon, he said.

"In all of our classes in education, we do ask for volunteers and we usually get a good response," he said. "I have always successfully gotten people in the education department to announce the event to their students and to encourage students to come and volunteer."

The event gives many people on campus an outlet to help others.

"This is what we needed," Lantz said. "Not only does it give all our people, faculty and students alike, a place to positively volunteer their time, it's also a great outreach for Missouri Southern."

SOUTHERN NEWS BRIEFS

Pottery show and sale begins in two weeks

Student pottery will be on sale at Missouri Southern's annual spring show and sale, which begins April 21 and finishes May 7.

The sale will take place in the lobby area between the art and music departments on the Southern campus. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays; and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Sundays.

Hand-made highlights of the show include functional stoneware pottery and non-functional RAKU. As a special treat, there will be RAKU demonstrations from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 5 and 7.

Translated, RAKU means "happiness through chance," according to Jon Fowler, professor of art.

"Originally, a 16th-century Japanese 'fast-firing' technique, U.S. potters have been adding their unique variations since 1947," he said. "Unlike traditional high-fire techniques, students are a part of the entire process and participate fully in the colorful and dramatic experience."

"Usually, finished pieces can be held in the hands 10 or 15 minutes after being removed red hot from the kilns."

There are 10 students participating in the sale.

Youths celebrate week with free performances

Missouri Southern's Webster Hall will be the site as Southern's Suzuki Violin Academy and Carthage's Keynote Club perform a special National Music Week radio concert at 7 p.m. Friday.

Admission is free and open to the public.

The concert will be recorded for broadcast during the National Music Week (the first week of May) on 88.7 KXMS, Joplin's Fine Arts Station.

There will be 33 students performing from the MSSVA, from eight towns in the four-state area.

Faculty members of the MSSVA include Dr. Kexi Liu, director, and Kelly Simpson, piano accompanists for the performance are Bud Clark, Becky Higginson, Tascille King, and Nancy Serage.

RAKU workshop focuses on 'primitive' art form

Ceramics, sculpture, and RAKU will be taught at a workshop offered this summer through the division of continuing education at Missouri Southern.

The workshop, under the direction of Jon Fowler, professor of art, will meet from 8 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays from July 5-26.

There are no prerequisites for the four-week course, and young beginners to seasoned sculptors are welcome. The class will focus on pottery, sculpture, or any combination. Final firing of clay pieces will use either traditional methods, the Raku process, or a "primitive" method, such as pit-firing sawdust.

Tuition is \$275, which includes all materials, clays, glazes, potter's wheels, basic hand tools, and kiln use. The workshop will be held in the Southern Art Building Room A-111.

Enrollment is limited and early enrollment is encouraged.

To enroll, those interested may call (417) 625-9577.

International mission update on CBHE agenda

Among the many items on the agenda for the April 17 meeting of the Coordinating Board of Higher Education is Missouri Southern's progress report on the international mission.

Southern's report is among a bevy of reports being made by various colleges and universities.

The meeting starts at 1 p.m. in Jefferson City.

LECTURE SERIES

Poet shares experiences by reading

By KATE WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

The experiences throughout a lifetime can often lead to great literature. This week, a poet will share his experiences with the Missouri Southern community.

A poetry reading followed by a lecture about poetry and social class will be given by visiting poet Martin Espada.

The poetry reading will be at 7:30 p.m. today in the Spiva Art Gallery. The lecture will be held at 10 a.m. Friday in Webster Hall Room 105. Both events are free and open to the public.

Espada has recently published a new book of poems, *Imagine the Angels of Bread*. The book was just listed as a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. He has five published collections of poetry.

He currently teaches creative writing and U.S.-Latino poetry at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Espada is described by his peers as being concerned with social issues and people of all walks of life.

"He feels it is important for him to speak for people who don't have a voice," said Dr. William Kumbier, associate professor of English at Southern.

Espada was born in Brooklyn, but comes from a Puerto Rican heritage. Many of his poems are written in Spanish and English.

"He is someone who comes to writing poetry from life circumstances that show the need for poetry," Kumbier said.

"He hasn't only been a poet and a teacher," said Dr. Joy Dworkin, assistant professor of English. "He has had a broad range of life experiences."

Kumbier met Espada at the Frost Place poetry center in Franconia, N.H., where Espada was the guest poet. Kumbier said he had a great sense of humor and loves life.

"I thought he would be a good person, because so many of the students are coming back to school after many years," Kumbier said. "I thought he would be an inspiration for them. He has had some of the life experiences people here in Joplin have had, and people can relate to it."

He believes Espada is the kind of poet who will say meaningful things to Southern students. Espada has held many jobs and has used those experiences to write poetry that expresses social issues.

"He is very eloquent at expressing how literature can matter to people," Dworkin said.

PHYSICAL PLANT



We still have one van that needs to be retired to the service fleet. A new one has not been ordered yet, but it's in the budget.

Bob Beeler
Director,
physical plant

Addition of new bus doesn't end woes

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
STAFF WRITER

What a difference a year makes. Last spring, Missouri Southern athletic teams had a better chance of winning the lottery than making it to a road game and back without breaking down. The addition of two new 15-passenger vans and a 26-passenger mini-bus, however, has greatly reduced the gamble.

The rental fleet includes two mini-buses, three vans, and five station wagons. The new mini-van, with a \$70,000 price tag, just arrived this week.

"Most of the money came from our rental fleet revenue," said Bob Beeler, director of the physical plant. "We did have to borrow some from other sources, but we will be able to pay it back soon."

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Senate receives funds back from groups

By MICHELLE CONTY
ASSISTANT ARTS ETC. EDITOR

Missouri Southern's Student Senate has received \$500 of unused funds it allocated. At next week's meeting, funds will be granted to one or two of the clubs that had been previously turned down.

Senate treasurer Josh Phillips said he looked over the allocations and was unable to find an organization that had not gone on its trip yet.

"Everyone has gone on their trip; I'm at a loss as to what to do," Phillips said. "I'm going to get with

Grant [Miller], Eden [Aber], and Sandy [Fisk] tomorrow and have a little conference and decide where to go."

Phillips is considering reimbursing two clubs. However, no decisions have been made and will not be made until today.

The Senate currently has \$623 in its account.

"It's a little bit to work with; we'll decide where to go with it," Phillips said. "Since the amounts are not large, we may be able to give a couple of groups reimbursement."

The Senate will be holding its annual casino night from 7 p.m. to

Fees for the use of College vehicles are set at 25¢ per mile for cars, 35¢ per mile for vans, and 75¢ per mile for mini-buses. Rental revenue is supposed to fund the maintenance and replacement of rental vehicles, but in the past those funds were diverted to cover budget shortfalls in other areas.

"That isn't happening any more," Beeler said. Sallie Beard, director of women's athletics, appreciates the fleet improvements but sees room for more.

"Steps have been made to correct the problem," she said, "but the College could still improve the situation. In my opinion, we need to have three mini-buses."

Beeler agreed that there is sometimes enough demand to warrant purchasing additional vehicles, but said another option is to rent vehicles during peak seasons.

"The busy time is spring," he said. "Jim

Frazier, (director of men's athletics), demonstrated the need for more vehicles at our last staff meeting, but it all comes down to economics. Would it be better to rent or buy?"

Even with the addition of three new vehicles in the last year, Southern's transportation woes are not completely solved.

"We still have one van that needs to be retired to the service fleet," Beeler said. "A new one has not been ordered yet, but it's in the budget."

"The next real need is in our cars. We're still having some breakdowns with them, but we ordered a new wagon last week."

Beeler hopes to have the new van and station wagon in service by the beginning of the fall semester.

"I'm pleased with the support the administration has given to this effort," he said. "The picture was pretty bleak a year ago."

Bitterbaum denies meeting with Talley

It was reported in last week's issue of *The Chart* that Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs, and Jason Talley, junior student senator, met and discussed a plan that would introduce an evaluating system of instructors for students.

Bitterbaum said this week the meeting did not take place, and the only time the idea was discussed was at an informal setting in which no details were expounded upon.

"The implication [of last week's story] was that we had a thorough discussion," Bitterbaum said. "But it was just mentioned in passing."

Talley said the two had spoken about an evaluating system, but he did not elaborate on the setting or nature of their discussion.

11 p.m. on Thursday, May 1 at the Student Life Center. The event might be extended until midnight

if there is enough interest. OfficeMax is donating approximately \$160 for the printing cost.

EDITOR'S COLUMN

College tosses student body big curve ball

Now that Missouri Southern's athletes and cheerleaders have gone through the early pre-enrollment process, we can breathe a heavy sigh of relief.

The administration's decision to allow varsity athletes to pre-enroll early is a slap in the face to all other students who are striving to reach their goals. Clearly, they are being put at an enrollment disadvantage with this decision.

I feel this sense of betrayal for the majority of the student body. I am primarily speaking for that 36-year-old non-traditional student when I express my concerns. You know, that mother of two young children who needs to be at home by



Rick Rogers
Editor-in-Chief

3 p.m. when her children get out of school. ...That mother who is attempting to finish a college career that has seen as many roadblocks as Interstate 44 during a Fourth of July weekend.

...That mother who needs only Fundamentals of Physical Science to be able to receive her degree in July or December.

...That mother who could certainly use a solid paycheck to one day be able to support her children with a higher education.

So, imagine the expression on her face during regular senior enrollment Monday when she was told by her advisor the only class she needed to graduate was already full.

Why was the class full? Because Missouri Southern's administration wanted to make sure our athletes could attend each and every practice. And because our quick-gloved shortstop, our towering starting center, and our all-MIAA quarterback needed to be free for their afternoons, that mother may be sitting at home unable to take part in the biggest game of all. The game of life.

I understand athletics are important to Missouri Southern. I understand they bring additional publicity to both the athletic departments and to the College itself. To be quite honest, I love Southern athletics. But I don't appreciate the curve ball the administration just tossed to begin the Fall 1997 enrollment season.

And in my game, the umpire just called a balk.

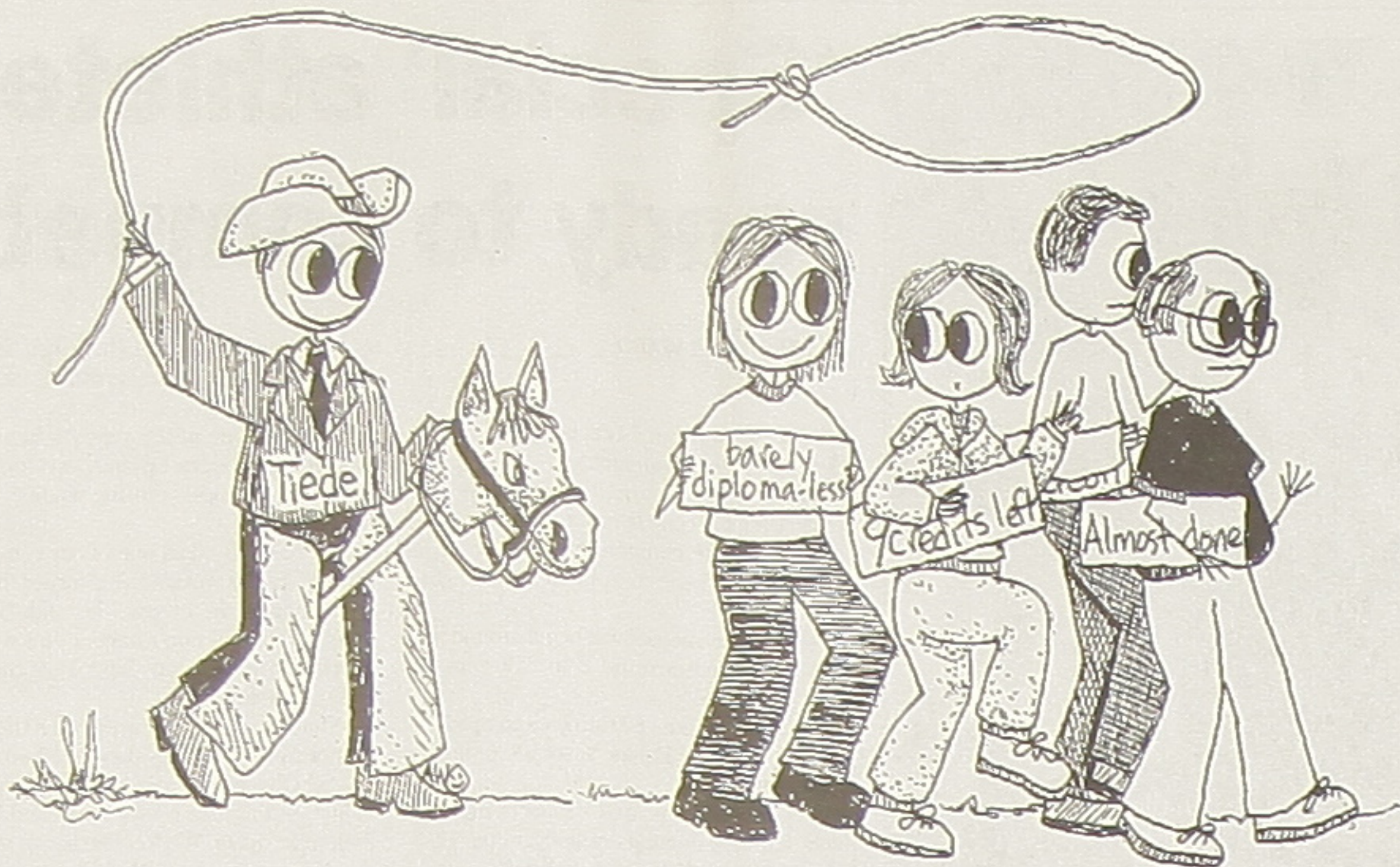
At an institution where academics have always reigned supreme over athletics, the administration's decision doesn't add up.

Yes, the athletic departments are faced with working more than 250 athletes' schedules around their respective sports' practice times. But not all 250 athletes deserve to pre-enroll early.

What about that first-semester freshman athlete who doesn't have a single credit to his name? Why can he pre-enroll before the rest of the senior student body? He does not deserve the privilege. Oh, I forgot, he's an athlete.

Many of us — the normal student body — would love to be in the athlete's shoes. Not because they can pre-enroll early, but because they are recognized for playing a game many of us love.

Who will be next? How about the Lion Pride Marching Band, whose members practice from 3-4:30 p.m. everyday. Or the students involved in Southern Theatre, who spend countless hours presenting productions to the student body and the community. Or the residence hall staff assistants, who keep the dorms from running amuck. You can make a pretty good case that everyone involved in a major departmental activity also deserves the privilege to pre-enroll early. Yet no single group, except for the disabled or the handicapped, should have been singled out. □



OUR EDITORIAL

Unsigned editorials on this page express the opinions of a majority of The Chart editors. Observations elsewhere on the page represent independent viewpoints of columnists, cartoonists, and readers.

Keep 'em coming back

It seems only appropriate with Missouri Southern being so close to the birthplace of the cattle industry that the College take such a stance at wrangling wayward students back into the herd.

Retaining students and bringing those back who have left has become a high priority for many colleges.

Selling the facility and the benefits of a college students are already familiar with isn't as difficult as it would be with new students.

Southern falls about average as far as losing students, but only recently has it begun expanding its recruiting efforts into the arena of retention.

This seems like an obvious place to start looking when the College wants to try to boost its numbers. Although administrators say numbers have nothing to do with funding from the state, an increase in enrollment couldn't hurt.

Seemingly the most illogical of all the students the College is chasing to get back into a classroom are a group

of some 1,200 former students with nearly 100 credits or more.

It's illogical because there seems to be no plausible explanation why a student would get so close to a degree and then quit.

The College, however, has realized there are students who need only a little bit more for a complete education and has begun trying to get them back to Southern.

The need for this complete education is greater now than any other time in history, and the need grows only greater each year. Even blue-collar employers are stressing a post-high school education.

More and more, the need for a degree from any facility is becoming commonplace in the job market.

Southern and other colleges have realized their obligation to students extends beyond the classroom. Although the retention plans are in the infant stages, these are initiatives that make good colleges great. □

YOUR LETTERS

The Chart welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. Submit letters to The Chart office on the third floor of Webster Hall, fax them to (417) 625-9742, or send via E-mail. Our E-mail address: chart@vm.mssc.edu Letters are due by noon Monday for publication in that week's edition.

Same data also proves block class cup to be half full

I was disappointed with the negative tone of the April 3 article about the learning community project (block) under way at MSSC. Selected data were used to support the negative theme and aggregated qualitative data were dismissed as "lack of solid data" and "perceptions of success."

An effort to provide honest data was rewarded with manipulation of facts to support a predetermined position. Readers might be interested to know that the English 101 and English 102 grades of the learning community members were significantly higher than the control group. Also, the number of 1995-96 learning community members enrolled for the current semester is significantly higher than the control group. This is a longitudinal study, and it is too soon to make judgments regarding

success or failure. Data regarding the current 1996-97 learning community group were ignored.

Qualitative themes derived from the study (supplied not printed) are positive in terms of student satisfaction and faculty willingness to work with the program as modifications and improvements are implemented. The fact that 40 percent of the faculty indicated a desire not to continue does not negate the fact that more than half indicated a willingness to continue. Is this a part of the old "cup is half empty" syndrome? Targeted faculty were interviewed and those interviews were used selectively. One might also expect the student newspaper to include interviews with student participants.

Nationally, learning communities have

enjoyed great success on campuses similar to ours.

Preliminary data at Southern is mixed, however, the freshmen learning community participants indicated overwhelming support for the program. These students reported greater participation and satisfaction than they experienced in their other classes.

Perhaps it is our role to accept our incoming traditional-aged students and to help them to become successful college learners. It is toward this goal that an interdisciplinary team has convened to steer the project on an optimistic course for the future.

Elaine Freeman
Director of special programs

Obnoxious students only take up valuable class time

Lately, my classmates have really gotten on my nerves. There are the few that I look at and think, "Please, just stay quiet today." To be more specific, I am talking about three different kinds of annoying individuals: the arguers, the question askers, and those who just make stupid comments.

The arguers are the ones who debate every single thing that the instructor says. They stall the class and present their position when no one really gives a damn anyway. Most of us are thinking, "Shut up and let's just get on with class!" You people make the instructor have to sigh and stand and listen to your stupid points that usually have no relevance to class activity. You are

disrespectful to the instructor.

I am sick of instructors not getting the respect they deserve. I have heard students curse at the instructor, tell them to shut up, and also tell them they have no clue what they are talking about.

The next group are the question askers. You people ask the stupidest questions, and you take up too much class time!

This person in one of my classes asks questions everyday that shows he is only trying to kiss up to the instructor by trying to seem intelligent. Meanwhile, most of us are thinking, "Who cares!" Why do you people ask these questions...wait till after class!

Lastly, those annoyances who just blurt out dumb comments. These people always comment on everything. They will turn around and look at the class for approval. We just roll our eyes and look down.

It's like these people want applause for their knowledge. Again, "We don't care!" Most of us are thinking, "OK, your point?"

Don't get me wrong; some people do add valid information that supports class discussions. It is just that these three types of people are consistent in their behavior, and it gets old. Just keep it to yourself!

K. Latlip
Junior communications major

IN PERSPECTIVE

Two subjects that just don't seem to mix

College students and politics. Those two subjects sometimes do not mix. Most college students do not fully understand the meaning of the word politics.

When most people think of politics, they think of all the stereotypical characteristics that go along with it. For example, people perceive politicians as liars and those who are unable to keep a promise. I will be the first to agree that there are some politicians who cannot hold up their end of the bargain when it comes to getting something done. That is always going to happen. The truth is, most politicians who hold public office are decent people who are overshadowed by the political light.

I think another aspect is that some college students have little knowledge of their party affiliation in the political arena. They are not sure if they are a Republican or a Democrat. Or they think they agree with one party, but come to find out, they actually agree with the other party's platform. People have to understand what the party's platforms are and what the party believes in before they can make a judgment on whether they agree with it or not.

The Republican Party is an example. This party is the conservative party of the United States. When I use the word "conservative," I mean they believe in "people's government." They do not believe in allowing the government to regulate everything in our lives. If you take a look, this is what our founding fathers believed in because it is in that great document that is the framework of our government called the Constitution of the United States of America.

Democrats, on the other hand, believe in a liberal form of government. Liberal, usually meaning wanting government to make decisions for you, not necessarily making decisions, but regulating what does happen in our lives.

Both parties do have one general characteristic in common; they want to make life easier for the people. The parties just have different ways of reaching their goal. I am not one to judge what people believe in; that is their right. This is what makes our country so great. I wish college students would make more of an effort to gain knowledge about their country and what makes it so great.

Being a political science major and being heavily involved in the political game, I have found all of this extremely interesting. I think I have somewhat of a grasp of the subject. I will never know all there is to know about the political process as I would like to; that is just not humanly possible. I do not expect to know everything, nor do I expect everyone else to. I would like to see more college students get involved in their future. What they do not realize is that we are what makes this country work. This is why it is so important that we have a say in our government.

In this wonderful country of ours, we were given the privilege of being able to choose the people who run our government and its future. This is a great privilege; why some people abuse this, I will never know. Next time you think about the word "politics," I would like you to ask yourself this question: "How important is my government, my country, and most of all, my future to me?" I would hope the answer would be obvious. □



Kelly Cole
Sophomore political science major

THE CHART

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ACP Pacemaker Finalist (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994)
MCMA — "Best in State" (1993-94, 1996-97)

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ACT

Score requirements fall

By STEPHANIE GOAD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Students living out of state may now find it easier to pay in-state tuition at Missouri Southern.

The College has lowered the ACT score required for out-of-state students to pay in-state tuition from 23 to 21.

According to Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs, Southern is listed as a "moderately selective institution," which means any first-time, full-time, degree-seeking student who achieves a 21 or better on the ACT College Entrance Examination, or its equivalent on the SAT, is automatically admitted.

For example, a student graduating from high school in Tulsa, with an ACT score of 21 or better, will

be able to attend Southern at the in-state cost. This applies to out-of-state students who are entering college from high school, or those who have associate degrees from junior colleges with a grade-point-average of at least 3.25.

"After visiting with the president, John (Tiede, senior vice president), the deans, and selected faculty, it was determined that we would return from a 23 to 21 since that is the national average, and it is also what it means to be a moderately selective institution," Bitterbaum said. "This would attract more students in our service area."

"Our service area includes southeast Kansas, Tulsa, and northwest Arkansas," he said. "We hope to encourage students from those areas to come take advantage of the education we have here."

Bitterbaum said on Friday, College President Julio Leon and a group of deans traveled to various high schools in the Tulsa area to promote the "high satisfaction and the low cost Southern offers."

"He also presented a slide show, showing pictures of our campus and talked about the international mission," Bitterbaum said.

Bitterbaum said he sees the change as an opportunity to "bring outstanding students to Missouri Southern, besides those who are close to home."

Jim Gilbert, director of student financial aid, also said the lowering of the ACT requirement is a strategy to attract more students.

"It can help create a good, stable pool of students," he said. "It will also allow us to stay competitive with Pittsburg [State University]." □

HONG KONG: Transition concerns student

From page 1

United States." But Shanghai is heading in a new and different direction.

"Shanghai is starting a whole new city, away from the old Shanghai, on farmland that they have currently secured," Gubera said. "There is every indication that the Chinese are going to deliberately promote Shanghai in the future and Hong Kong will fall in some type of status as far as its economic structure."

Erica Lau, a first-semester Missouri Southern student from Hong Kong, said she plans to return to her native country May 20 but hasn't decided whether she will return to the College. Along with her parents, Lau is concerned about how the people of Hong Kong will react to operating under Chinese rule.

"They feel the same as me," Lau said. "They feel confused, because

they don't really know what the future holds. But they can't do anything about it. They feel powerless, because they will lose many of their human rights because of Chinese rule."

Even though Hong Kong is currently in turmoil, Lau's love for her city is remarkable.

"Hong Kong is a wonderful city," she said. "It is a developed city and you can see a lot there like new technology. It is very crowded, but fun. I like it there. I am very used to that type of living environment."

"It is so different than living in the central United States, where it is very slow. All they have is cattle here. I'm bored here, but I'm fine and still alive."

Culture, lifestyle, and economics are not the only major differences between the United States and Hong Kong.

Lau said the business mecca's outlook on education is also unique.

"Everything is different," she said. "Americans students are more relaxed. They can say whatever they want to in class and do whatever they want. If we would talk back rudely to a teacher, we would be in trouble."

Gubera also has a more abstract picture of Hong Kong's relations with Shanghai.

"Perhaps instead of just letting Hong Kong expand, I think we are going to see Hong Kong change somewhat and become a second-class city to Shanghai," he said. "Hong Kong could very well fade from its pristine position 20 years from now."

"They really have a lot of things going for them in China and are really going to promote Shanghai. The president of China is the former mayor of Shanghai, Jiang Jamin, and these types of things just don't happen by accident. They are planned out. The Chinese plan things out very carefully." □

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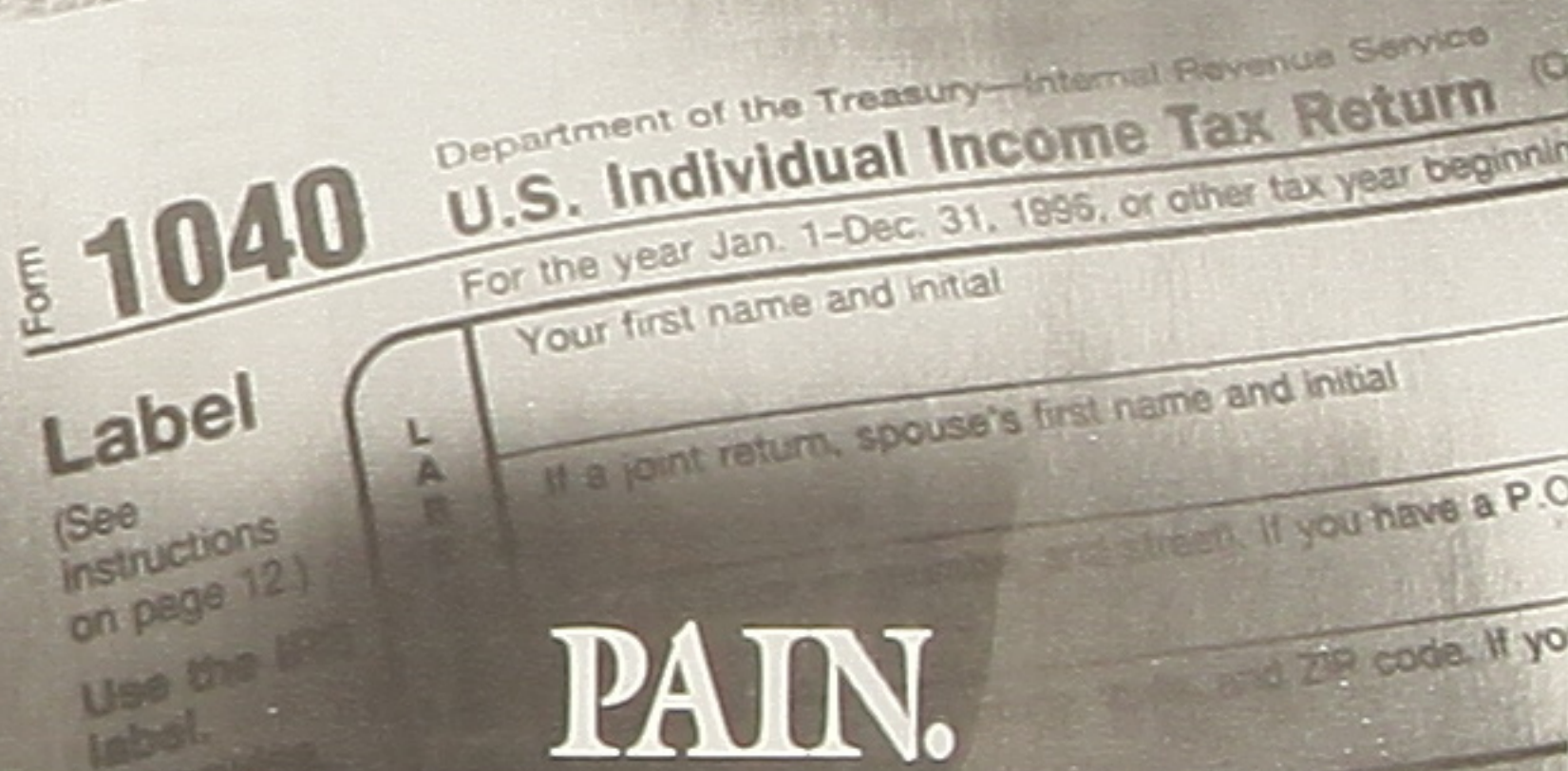
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HONG KONG

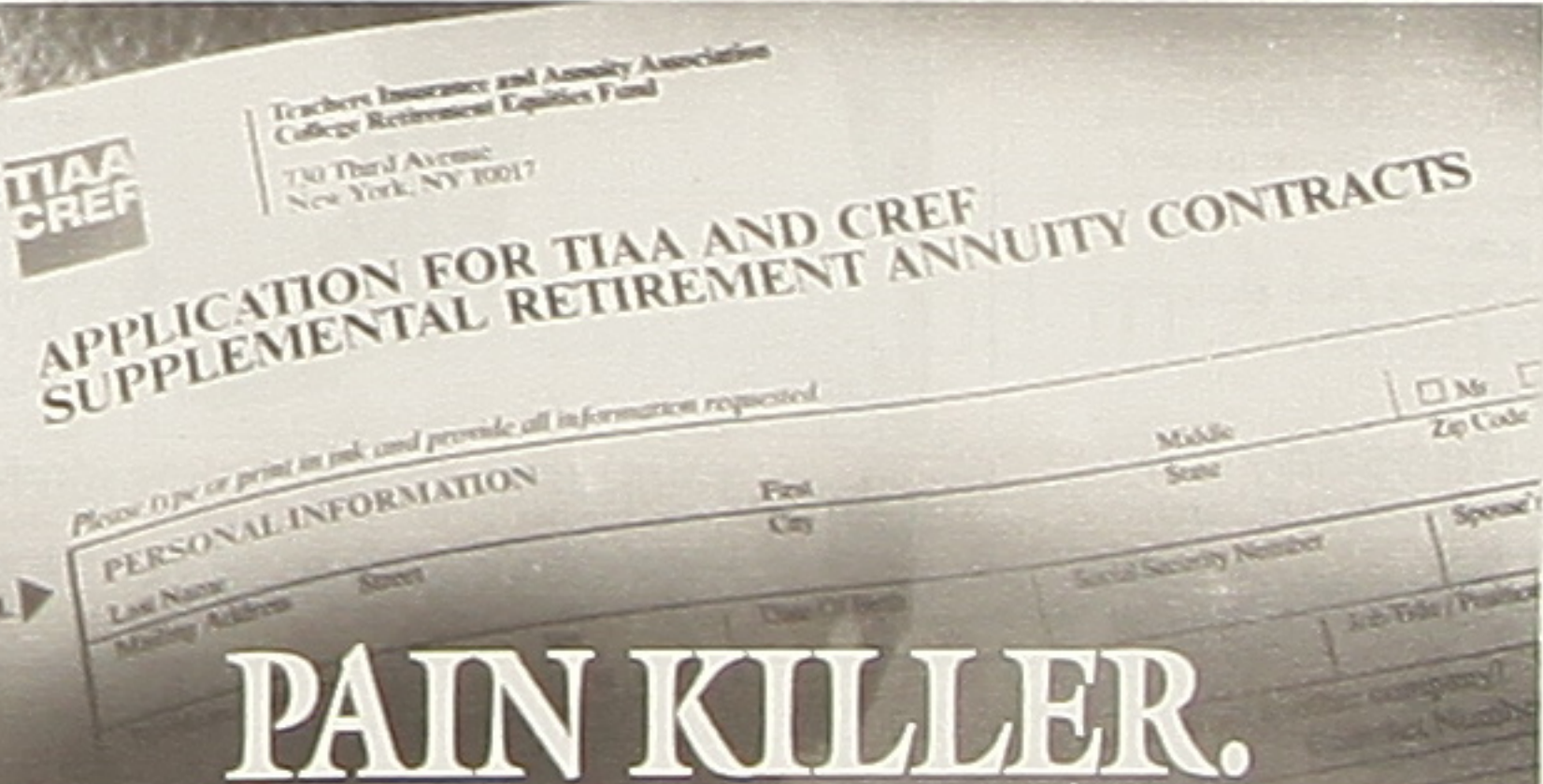
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CAMPUS CALENDAR

S M T W T F S
13 14 15 16 10 11 12

Today 10

Regional Science Fair
•Pre-registration for students with 60+ credit hours
•Sign-up deadline for intramurals 4 on 4 all-night volleyball tournament
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.—
Koinonia Lunch, basement of Stegge Hall
12:20 p.m.—
Model United Nations meeting, Webster Hall, Room 223
6:30 p.m.—
Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting, BSC, 2nd floor lounge
7 p.m.—
Zeta Tau Alpha meeting, Panhellenic room
•Baptist Student Union, Thursday Night Together, BSU Building
7:30 p.m.—
Jazz Band concert, Taylor Performing Arts Center

Friday 11

Regional Science Fair
•Sign-up deadline for intramurals 3 on 3 sand volleyball tournament
11 a.m.—
Chi Alpha meeting, Webster Hall, Room 115
7 p.m.—
Suzuki violin students and Keynote Club piano recital, Webster auditorium

Saturday 12

1 p.m.—
Baseball vs. Pittsburg State, Joe Becker Stadium
•Tennis vs. Truman State, tennis courts

Sunday 13

3:00 p.m.—
Joplin Piano Teachers' recital
6 p.m.—
Newman Club meeting, St. Peter's Catholic Church, 8th and Pearl
7 p.m.—
Sigma Pi meeting, Stegge Hall basement
•Alpha Sigma Alpha meeting, Panhellenic Room

Monday 14

Beginning of National Volunteer Week
•Petitions for Student Senate executive officers available in BSC, Room 211
•Pre-registration for students with 30+ hours
7 p.m.—
Baptist Student Union Quest Fellowship, Baptist Student Union Building
9 p.m.—
On-Campus Bible Study, Apt. H-7, Stone Hall

Tuesday 15

Last day to mail off taxes
Noon—
Latter-Day Saints Student Association meeting, BSC, Room 313
12:15 p.m.—
Non-traditional student brown bag lunch, Hearnes Hall, Room 211
12:20 p.m.—
College Republicans meeting, BSC, Room 311
1 p.m.—
Educational Job Fair, BSC 3rd floor
2:15 p.m.—
Chi Alpha meeting, BSC, Room 311
7 p.m.—
Koinonia main meeting, College Heights Christian Church

Wednesday 16

Regional Science Fair
Noon—
Psychology Club, Taylor Hall, Room 123

PHI ETA SIGMA

Honors society inducts 'fresh' faces

New ideas, memberships, awards given at meeting

By RHONDA CLARK
STAFF WRITER

Giving credit for credit earned, the Missouri Southern chapter of Phi Eta Sigma inducted 98 new members on March 26.

"This recognizes freshmen for outstanding achievement. Since they are not as involved with organizations, it is a way to give them recognition early," said Susan Craig, coordinator of College Orientation and the Phi Eta

Sigma adviser for the past two years.

The ceremony, held at the Billingsly Student Center, had approximately 230 persons in attendance. Students qualify for membership in the national honor society during their freshman year. A 3.5 grade-point average and full-time student status of 12 hours or more in the first or second semester at Southern are the only requirements.

The local chapter also presented two special awards that evening. Inducted as an honorary member was Dr. Al Carmine, professor of music. Craig said the officers' selection of this recipient each year is someone they believe is "freshmen friendly."

The "Making a World of Difference Award"

went to Anita Frieze, administrative assistant in the Learning Center. Given to the individual believed to make Southern a better place to be, the award is based on written nominations solicited from across the campus.

Janet Ferron, sophomore undecided major, is the new president of the College's chapter. She would like to see more campus involvement and less apathy from the organization.

"I'd like to see us do campus and community service and some fun stuff so people get to know each other," Ferron said.

She believes how one becomes involved on campus is just as important as academics. After working out the details with her fellow executive officers, Ferron would like to have

biweekly meetings and publish a newsletter.

Other officers include Mike Powell, vice president; Andrea Land, secretary; Carrie Parker, treasurer; Patrick Riley, historian; and Dale Walker, publicist.

Dr. Loreen Huffman, assistant professor of psychology, takes over as adviser of Phi Eta Sigma this week. Ferron believes Huffman shares her attitude for getting the campus organization up and running and more active.

Craig said each local chapter can determine what it wants to do. This may range from social events to service work. She believes stressing academics is the key to the value of the organization. □

STUDENT FEATURE

Son goes over the books with mom...

A different bedtime story

...Mom backs son's college baseball career

By HEATHER DEMIER
STAFF WRITER

Attending college together has been an enlightening experience for this mother-and-son duo.

Marcia Long, junior general studies major, and her son, Kent, sophomore middle school education major, hardly find time to study together with their busy schedules.

Kent is a member of the Missouri Southern baseball team, while Marcia is employed at Pro 100 Realtors and has a real estate broker license. She is also a wife and a mother of three.

Both Marcia and Kent are taking 14 hours this semester. Their one class together is Fundamentals of Physical Science.

"Occasionally we work on our homework together, but Kent isn't home a whole lot because of the baseball practices," Marcia said.

Marcia graduated from Parkwood High School in Joplin 25 years ago. Her decision to attend college was to alleviate the pain of her mother's recent death.

"My mom was a really big part of what I did with my time," she said. "I spent a lot of time with her, and we were really close. After my mother died, I needed something else to do and think about besides my job, family, and my house."

"I decided, with the encouragement from my husband and children, that going back to college would be a good thing to do."

"I haven't spent as much time at my job since I've been in school," Marcia said.

"It's real hard to be in sales when your heart is broken."

She said school is a cheerful and encouraging place to be and it keeps her busy.

Kent said they often see each other in the hallway or walking around campus.

"I'm really proud of my mom," he said.

A 1995 graduate and baseball player from Joplin High School, Kent began playing baseball at the age of 4.

"My mother told my dad that she wanted her son to play baseball, and that's when he started teaching me the basics," he said.

Even though the sport is time consuming, Kent says he loves baseball and the whole college athletics atmosphere.

Kent is looking forward to teaching College Orientation next semester.

"My sister taught it and said it was lots of fun, and I'd also like to put it on my résumé."

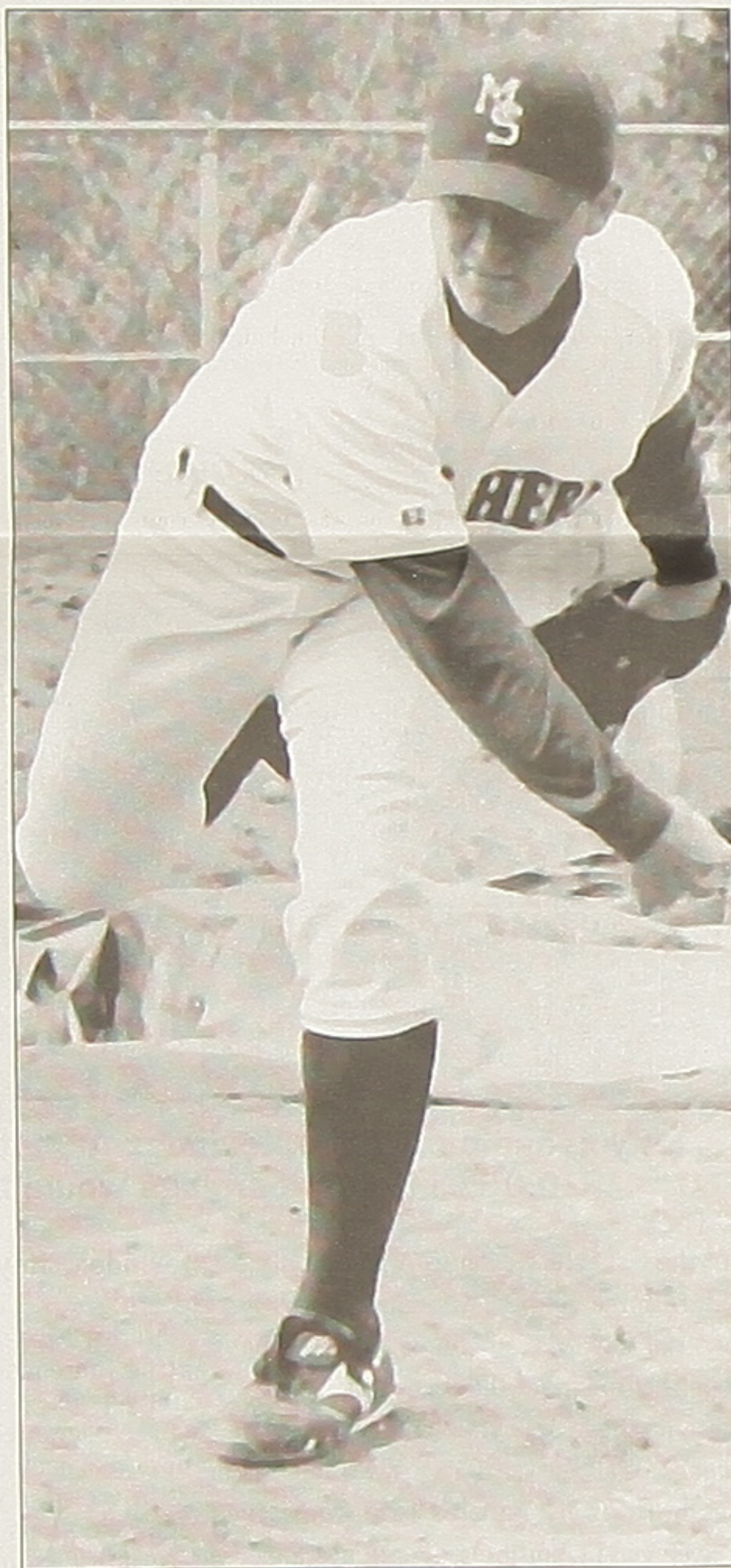
When he is not busy studying or playing baseball, Kent likes to play golf with his younger brother, Kyle.

Marcia's hobbies include reading, working in her yard, and teaching a Sunday school class to middle school students. □



JOHN SMITH/The Chart

Marcia Long, the mother of Missouri Southern Lion Kent Long, cheers on her son during Wednesday's baseball game at Becker Stadium.



JOHN SMITH/The Chart

Missouri Southern sophomore pitcher Kent Long warms up in the bullpen at Joe Becker Stadium before Wednesday's MIAA game against Truman State University. He also plays outfield for the Lions.

CAMPUS ORGANIZATION

Model U.N. provides 'intense' experience for its students

Club emphasizes intercultural relations

By BRIAN PALMER
STAFF WRITER

Missouri Southern's Model United Nations Club is gearing up for next semester's conferences in Chicago and St. Louis.

Dr. Paul Teverow, professor of history and the club's faculty sponsor, said it offers students an opportunity to learn something about international relations and the U.N. system of operation.

"It requires students to do an awful

lot of research and reading on important issues and to learn an awful lot about a particular country and about the United Nations system," he said.

"But then it requires them to apply what they've learned in a conference where they play the role of a particular country."

Teverow said the experience is "intense," due to the sometimes long hours involved. But he said it gives students a chance to expand their circle of acquaintances by visiting the conferences.

"It offers [the students] the opportunity to make contact with students from different schools," he said, "sometimes from fairly far away,

who they never would have met otherwise." Teverow said the Model U.N. sometimes attracts a certain kind of student.

"There are students out there for whom learning about international relations and following political affairs really is a passion," he said. "This is one of the few socially acceptable ways in which they could do it and not be thought of as strange or eccentric."

Nick Prewett, sophomore political science major, drew a correlation between football and the Model U.N.

"You'd really relate it to a football player going to a football game," Prewett said. "I enjoy these, and we

have one a semester. It's a really intense conference experience."

Prewett said the Model U.N. conferences help people to better themselves through diplomacy.

"You learn how to overcome frustrations," he said. "If someone is totally against you, you have to be diplomatic."

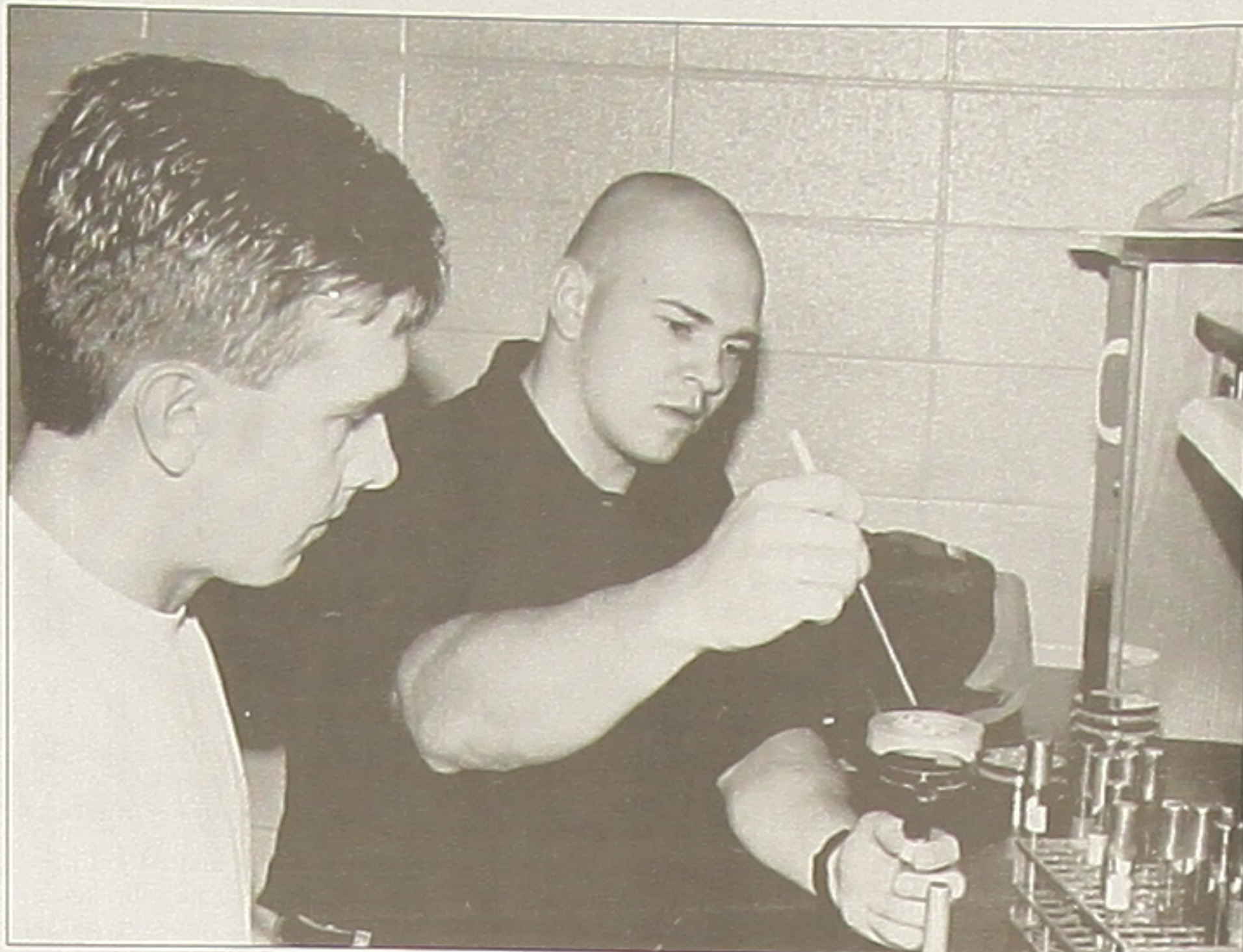
Next year the club will represent Denmark at the American Model United Nations in Chicago Oct. 30-Nov. 2 and Sweden at the Midwest Model United Nations in St. Louis Feb. 25-28.

Anyone wishing to participate, regardless of major, should contact Teverow in Webster Hall Room 226 or at 625-3114. □

"If someone is totally against you, you have to be diplomatic."

Nick Prewett
Sophomore
political science
major

Athlete proud of classroom, field achievements



Justin Taylor, senior environmental health major, prides himself in staying true to his values and beliefs.

By SUSIE FRISBIE
CHART REPORTER

Walking through campus on a warm spring day, one can hear crickets chirp, birds sing, and senior Justin Taylor doing his famous Tarzan call.

"The Tarzan thing started my freshman year," said Taylor, an environmental health major. "Our team being the Lions, I just turned things over into Tarzan. It's become a request."

This request can be heard on and off the football field. Taylor, a running back turned defensive back, began his football career at Missouri Southern in 1993.

Throughout his years at Southern, he's won numerous awards. He is proudest, however, of his redshirt, walk-on, freshman year.

"My freshman year I got the Green Pride Award. That was the year we won the conference championship," Taylor said.

Receiving the Green Pride Award was an honor to him because it's given to a member of the "scout" team that helps out the most on the

field and puts forth the most effort. More importantly, it's voted on by the team.

Taylor, who hopes to steer clear of the knee injuries that have plagued him for the last two seasons, has high expectations for himself as well as the team next season.

"I hope to be all-conference corner[back] or at least second team," he said.

"I want to get healthy and more or less win another conference championship."

Taylor, also known as J.T., has learned to balance academics with extracurricular activities.

"The key to successfully managing your time is you have to have priorities," he said.

"My first priority is school, and then I have practice; that's second. Finding time for recreation comes in after that."

Academics are important to Taylor, who receives not only a football scholarship but also an academic one.

He attributes his success to his father.

"He's instilled in me the work ethic that I need to make it that I

transfer into school and into sports," Taylor said.

It is clear his father has passed on more than a work ethic to his son.

"I'm a clown. I'm a three-ring circus wherever I go," Taylor said. "My dad's like me, kind of crazy."

On any given day he can be found doing backflips off picnic tables, searching for arrowheads, cutting his teammates' hair, or driving his car. However, this is no ordinary car.

"I drive a 1976 Cadillac Sedan Deville, four-door, white, tinted windows, 500 cubic inches of pure horsepower. It's my girl; it's my baby," he said.

Nonconformist is a word typical in describing Taylor. He prides himself in staying true to his values and beliefs.

"I believe you should stay with what you know is right or wrong," Taylor said.

"Don't let others influence or change you. You have to be yourself."

This is advice Taylor adheres to in his own life.

"I'm just me. I'm kind of the Ace Ventura of Missouri Southern," he said. □

GRAPHIC ARTS

Mother's 'push' encourages love for guitar, music

By AMY HILL
CHART REPORTER

The man with the long hair systematically untangles cords and gadgets from a duffel bag on the floor. He then plugs them into an amplifier and begins to play his guitar.

"I play guitar because I would like for that to be my professional career," said John Smith, a senior graphic arts major. "Music is food for the soul."

Smith first became interested in playing music when he was 11 or 12 and heard Metallica's *Master of Puppets* album. He has been playing guitar ever since, thanks to his mother.

Smith said his mother kind of "pushed" him into playing music. She wanted him to learn to play an instrument. At first he wanted to play the drums, but he and his mother decided on the guitar.

"She talked me out of it (playing drums) because they weren't melodic," Smith said.

"You can't really play a song on the drums. She thought I would get more out of the guitar."

He said he plays music for himself, but would like to express things to people through his music. Smith said it's difficult to be heard and understood.

He is currently in a band called Hollow.

The band is in need of a few additions, however, such as a singer and a bass player.

Smith was born in Joplin, but lived in Round Rock, Texas (near Austin), from first to fifth grade. He feels as though he grew up in Texas.

"I feel like it's a great place, and I would like to live there again," Smith said. "There's a good music scene in Austin."

Smith said he doesn't have any immediate plans to move, however.

He would like to get his degree, record a demo tape, and maybe do a small tour before he moves.

Originally, Smith had planned to pursue a physics degree from Rice University in Houston. But his application was not received before all of the seats were filled.

"I wanted to go into physics because I felt like I understood it better than the average person," he said.

Smith turned away from a physics major because he didn't want to live in Houston and wait to begin college. Instead, he enrolled at Missouri Southern and became a graphics major.

He chose graphics because he liked the arts and wanted to be strong in graphics so that he could do the art work for any music he produced or took part in producing. Smith has a few peeves about Southern.

He doesn't like attendance policies, the parking situation, or having to smoke outside.

While he agrees that annoyances like these are a fact of life, he doesn't think these concerns should be ignored. He does not think the College is being courteous to the students who smoke.

"I would prefer a smoking room for the winter," Smith said. "I don't feel the school has an obligation to students that smoke, but they (the College) could be a little more courteous."

For the most part, Smith is indifferent about school. Sometimes he likes it, and sometimes he doesn't.

Smith said what he likes the least about school is that it's time consuming.

"I've learned a lot, but not as much as I've expected to learn so far," he said.

"I would rather be playing music." □

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

“Shriners Hospital works miracles, I’m one of those miracles.”

Independence comes from necessity for Adams

By MARILYN HAZBOUN
CHART REPORTER

Miracles happen everyday, and Bennie Adams, born with spina bifida, believes he's one of them.

Adams, a junior marketing major, spent the first year of his life in the Kansas University Medical Center receiving several surgeries.

By the age of 15, however, his spine had become curved, to the right, and his legs were permanently bent at the knees. He underwent five more surgeries to correct these problems. The procedures took place at the Shriners Hospital For Crippled Children in St. Louis.

"Shriners Hospital works miracles," Adams said. "I'm one of their miracles, I do believe."

He uses a combination of braces for his legs and crutches for balance. He also has two wheelchairs. One is manual, and the other is battery-operated. He harbors the battery-operated one at Southern. Adams prefers using his braces and crutches to aid in his mobility, but his wheelchair has a basket.

"I can't get around so good with my crutches and carry books, too, so I use my wheelchair when I'm at school," he said.

Adams lives with his parents, but their house isn't equipped for his wheelchair except for the bathroom door, which is wider than most.

"I think that's why I've become more independent," he said. "I find ways to conquer things that aren't set up for me, like our cabinets that have glasses and things in it."

When Adams, only 5-foot tall, wants a cup, he uses his crutch to knock it out of the cupboard.

He uses only plastic cups, he says laughing.

Adams finds wheeling around Southern's campus fairly easy, but he does have one complaint: a shortage of elevators at the Billingsly Student Center.

"There is only one elevator, and it's primarily used for the cafeteria staff," he said, "and when it's occupied by them it's shut down and I can't get from one floor to the other. I have to go outside and all the way around the building."

Adams, 21, lived at the residence halls for his freshman and sophomore years. Socializing and not studying was the reason he moved back in with his parents. He now commutes from Moundville everyday. Adams says he doesn't mind the drive, except for one summer day in particular.

"I was scared pea green," he said.

Adams, while driving to Joplin on Highway 43, glanced down to check his temperature gauge, then looked up to discover he was on the wrong side of the road with a 26-foot truck coming straight for him.

He turned the wheel of his Chevrolet



Ben Adams, junior marketing major, believes he is a miracle and has become more independent due to his battle with spina bifida.

Beretta and missed the truck.

Adams ended up in a ditch perpendicular to the road. The truck kept going.

Using the roof of his car for support since his crutches were of no use, he painstakingly made

it out of the ditch. Once on the roadway, he was assisted by a Bronaugh resident who arranged for him to get his car pulled from the ditch.

"I did all that and wasn't even late for class," he said. □

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Frank wishes for return to childhood in Alaska



Nicholas Frank, junior criminal justice major, hopes to return to his native Alaska, where he feels most comfortable, and build a homestead.

Program's positive reputation entices student to Southern

By JUSTIN SIFFORD
CHART REPORTER

Imagine a beautiful stream winding down a steep green hillside into a deep blue lake. To many this sounds like a peaceful, mystical place, or just another beer commercial. But for Nicholas Frank, junior criminal justice major, Alaska is home sweet home.

"It's the only place I really felt comfortable," he said.

Frank moved from Kansas to Alaska when he was 5, along with his mother, two sisters, and father whose service in the Army was the reason for the move.

But Frank is by no means a stranger to moving. He and his family have lived at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Fort Riley Kan., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Fort Greely, Alaska.

"I liked moving, but the two trips back and forth from Alaska in a car was a real pain. It just never really seemed like I had a hometown," Frank said.

"Alaska is the closest thing to home that I ever had." In Alaska, Frank and his family would pan for gold in the Eagle River.

"We never found much; we just had fun," he said. When he wasn't panning for gold or fishing for

salmon, Frank attended a small public school that held kindergarten through the 12th grade in one building.

He now lives in Rolla with his parents during the summer and in the residence halls during the school year.

Frank is an active member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, where he reenacts medieval times with an emphasis on the seventh-century Vikings.

"I've been interested in Viking history for as long as I can remember," he said.

He also collects medieval weaponry and target shoots with both firearms and bow and arrow.

Frank's father, who served in the military for 25 years, is now in the civil service at Fort Leonard Wood.

"My dad is my hero; he never gave up no matter what happened," Frank said.

After graduation, he plans to apply with the U.S. Marshal Service, a branch of law enforcement that is similar to the FBI.

"I chose Southern because of the good reputation the criminal justice department had," he said.

"I also like the small classroom atmosphere; student-instructor interaction is very important."

Frank says he's content at Southern, but plans to go back to Alaska one day.

"Once I'm secure in my career, I want to go back to Alaska and homestead," he said.

"Then I will really feel at home." □

REGIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

Police charge two in Kimbrough homicide

A second Joplin man has been charged in the murder of Ricky Kimbrough.

On Friday, Jasper County prosecutors issued first-degree murder charges against Michael A. Davis, 17, 1902 Bird, Joplin. Police arrested Davis the same day at police headquarters. His bond has been set at \$200,000.

The bond for Steven A. Johnson, also charged Friday with first-degree murder in the death of Kimbrough, has been raised to \$1 million.

Both men are being held in the Joplin city jail in lieu of bond.

Davis is the son of the woman who formerly lived with Johnson until she entered into a relationship with Kimbrough.

Joplin Police Chief David Niebur said a third man was involved in Kimbrough's death, and charges against him are being reviewed by Prosecutor David Dally.

As a result of an extensive investigation, the victim's body was found by the Joplin Police Department at approximately 1:15 p.m. Friday, in an abandoned mine pit commonly called "Bullfrog." The mine pit is located at Perkins and McCoy streets in northwest Joplin. The body was identified, and authorities believe it had most likely been in the water since his death last month.

Kimbrough died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head and several stab wounds. □

Suspected serial killer shot by Highway Patrol

On Monday evening, the Missouri State Highway Patrol apprehended triple murder suspect Alis Ben Johns outside Warsaw, ending a five-month statewide manhunt.

Johns, 36, had been wanted since October on a Pulaski County murder warrant charging him in the killing of Tommy Stewart, 32, of Dixon.

Johns is also a suspect in the killing of two other Missouri residents. Police have identified Johns as a suspect in the killing of Leonard Voyles, 69, of Richland, and Wilma Bragg, 57, of Stark City.

Johns was shot in the abdomen by a Missouri Water Patrol officer after he threatened to shoot his girlfriend, Beverly Guehrer-McComb, 37, who was also wanted in connection with the crimes. Johns reportedly was holding a gun to her head, but she escaped unharmed.

Johns was air-lifted from the scene following the shooting. □

Church gambling on fund-raiser this Saturday

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 909 N. Madison, Webb City, will host a Casino Night on Saturday. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with activities beginning at 7 p.m.

For a fund-raiser, committee members have planned a variety of activities for the public to participate in.

Some of the events scheduled include video poker, black jack, craps, roulette, poker, slots, wheel of fortune, and other games of chance.

At the end of the evening, an auction will be held, offering hundreds of dollars of prizes to participants.

Tickets are available in advance of the event at the church office from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. today and Friday. Ticket prices are \$10 for \$100 worth of chips and \$15 for \$175 worth of chips. Tickets are also available at the door.

Food and drink will be available during the event. The public is invited to attend, but no one under 21 years of age will be admitted. □

RESTAURANT FEATURE

Brewery hopes to spawn style

Restaurant rebuilds Joplin train depot

By KIM GIBSON
STAFF WRITER

A slice of Joplin culture is built into the Iron Horse Restaurant and Brew Pub, which opened Monday at 2850 Rangeline in Joplin.

The new dining establishment resurrected an old Joplin train depot torn down section-by-section in 1988. David Glenn, the contractor who dismantled the depot, bought the rights to the station. Several offers were made proposing uses for the building. When David Powell, entrepreneur, and Jeff Herr, CEO of Able Body, suggested it become the Iron Horse Restaurant and Brew Pub, Glenn began piecing together the depot's separated sections.

"The time was right for it in Joplin," said Chris Andrew, co-owner. "The town needed something like that."

Six individuals, including a contractor, a restaurant owner, and four others, came together to become equal partners in creating the Iron Horse Restaurant and

66

The time was right for it in Joplin. The town needed something like that (Iron Horse).

Chris Andrew
Co-owner, Iron Horse

69

Brew Pub. In addition to Glenn, Powell, Herr, and Andrew, Kirk Dandridge and Dee Dannelley are also co-owners.

"We come from varied backgrounds and each brings something independently to that," Andrew said.

The restaurant serves as a showcase for many antique artifacts, including a working miniature airplane built by Wilbur Staib. The Iron Horse bought the plane from Illene Staib, his widow. Staib promised her late husband she would put his last plane on display. Andrew believes the restaurant



AARON DESLATTE/The Chart

Patrons of Iron Horse Restaurant and Brew Pub sit and enjoy a drink while watching the brewery in action.

was the best place to put it because of the heavy traffic through the building.

The appeal of the restaurant is its uniqueness, owners say.

"Other than 609 and Applebee's and places like that, you really don't have many premier places to go," said Marc Rollerson, Iron Horse manager. "We don't want to compete against those facilities; we want to compete with them."

The establishment has two floors. A sunken dining area on the first floor has a genuine railroad hand-

car situated nearby. Trains still frequent the railroad tracks behind the restaurant many times each day.

Other attractions in the train depot, such as the red brick in the building, come from the original structure. Some of the marble from the floor of the depot was salvaged and now makes the counter top of the restaurant's bar.

Near the bar stands a glassed-in brewery, a massive, silvery, steel hulk. Brewmaster Doug Moller makes the restaurant's own beer.

Fifty pounds of malted grain is ground into grist, goes through a 14-day fermenting process, and is filtered into five flavors of beer — raspberry wheat, American wheat, gold mild, amber, and black beer.

Andrew said the owners plan to pull out of the restaurant eventually and let the workers take over business.

"You've hired good people; you've got to let them do their job. But we're just all so excited about the whole deal that we stay involved," he said. □

MAIN STREET FEATURE

Bookstore spreading consumer savings, satisfaction



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Rance Mata, an employee at The Book Barn, helps Brent Wallace locate a rare comic book, which is one of the many services the popular Joplin bookstore has been providing to its customers for more than a decade.

The Book Barn's emphasized service equals added sales

By LINDA WHITED
STAFF WRITER

Let your educational and entertainment dollars stretch to the limit — buy your favorite new and used CDs, books, and cassettes at sharply reduced prices.

Joplin's Book Barn, located at 3128 Main St., invigorates used titles, then passes them on to consumers at up to 60 percent savings.

"We support schools, charities, and fund-raisers," said manager Rodney Spriggs. "We donate books, but not cash."

Eleven full-time employees provide seasoned customer service. The newest employee came aboard two years ago. Therefore, the bookstore retains customers based on the knowledge that service also sells the product.

"We buck the employee turnover trend," Spriggs said. "That's another

way we give back to the community."

The five-store chain acquires books at the Tulsa, Bartlesville, Okla., Springdale, Ark., and Springfield, Mo., locations.

Spriggs said The Book Barn is surveying Kansas City and Columbia markets for additional chain locations and to serve customers better.

Vintage Stock is the name of the stores in Tulsa and Springdale. The Springfield store is named Caveman.

Spriggs claims the variety entertainment store is replacing larger wholesalers.

Catering to a narrow readership limits money-making potential, he said.

"Now everyone is getting back into diversification," Spriggs said.

Spriggs said The Book Barn claims a 50 percent savings compared to Hastings' prices.

Gary Bandy of Joplin's KODE-TV frequents The Book Barn. Sixteen years of literary treasure hunting has produced a systematic approach.

"I have a schedule I go through,"

Bandy said. "Every week I first look at the used CDs and books. Then I go to the cassettes."

The selection and customer service keep the loyal customers.

"Sometimes I come to work and say to my employees, 'We have an army in here,'" Spriggs said. "That enables us to really pay attention to our customers."

Spriggs said 60 percent of the titles are new and 40 percent are used selections. A wide variety of merchandise gives the entire family a complete offering of reading materials.

Spriggs said Missouri Southern students and faculty generate a small percentage of The Book Barn's sales.

"Professors request particular titles, and we'll probably get 10 calls asking for the book," he said.

"We stock kids' toys, trading cards, hard-to-find comic books, and knick knacks," Spriggs said. "I think it would be hard for someone to come in and not find something they don't like."

Store hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sundays. □

To advertise in *The Chart* call Margo at 625-9789

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator proposes cap on tuition increases

Amendment would freeze tuition, help students

By TAMMY SPICER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —

With all the talk about Challenge Scholarships, some people are afraid that colleges and universities will take the opportunity to raise tuition since students will be receiving more financial aid.

Sen. Steve Ehlmann (R-St. Charles) plans to propose a measure that would put a cap on tuition increases.

"Without a cap on tuition, the entire goal of the Challenge Scholarship Program will be lost," Ehlmann said. "We're trying to make

sure an advanced education is available to more people. But that only happens if the scholarships bring down the real cost of going to school."

The bill states that public colleges and universities will be allowed to increase costs only to keep up with inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index. Students choosing to attend private institutions will be eligible only for the Challenge Scholarship if their college or university has voluntarily complied with the same standards as the public institutions.

"I don't have any problems with urging colleges and universities to restrain raising their tuition over inflation increases," said Missouri Southern President Julio Leon. "But one never knows how strong of support that colleges will receive from the legislature. Sometimes we could be forced to

raise tuition more than inflation."

The Challenge Scholarship program would provide all Missouri students with a \$1,500 tax credit for the first two years of college after high school. Gov. Mel Carnahan has stated that the Challenge Scholarship is one of his top priorities for the year.

"I know the concern is now that students have additional financial aid from the state that schools will raise tuition," Leon said. "But Missouri citizens and the media have become more aware of the cost of higher education, and I don't think the amendment is necessary."

The cost of attending higher education institutions has increased by an average of 7.9 percent over the last 20 years, according to Ehlmann's office.

Ehlmann will propose his measure as an amendment to the Challenge Scholarship

bill before the Senate. He expects to present it sometime within the next couple weeks.

"In this way, we make sure the Challenge Scholarships actually reduce the cost of an education," Ehlmann said. "By reducing the cost, we accomplish the goal of increasing access to higher education."

The bill is still being debated by the Senate because some believe that the Challenge Scholarship should be based on family income and that everyone should not be entitled to the same amount.

"It shouldn't affect Missouri Southern that much, because as you know, for the past few years we have raised our tuition about the same as inflation," Leon said. "But there is always the possibility that in the future we would need more money. We would not be able to react if this amendment goes through." □

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Missouri students safe from Hepatitis A outbreak

School cafeterias across Missouri did not receive any of the strawberries that have been linked to Hepatitis A infections, state education officials announced today.

Outbreaks of Hepatitis A were reported earlier this month in several states and have been linked with shipments of frozen strawberries that were provided to school lunch programs by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In Missouri, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education administers the national school lunch program and oversees the distribution of government-donated foods to local schools.

"The USDA has advised us that Missouri did not receive any shipments of frozen strawberries, processed by a company in California, which are suspected as being the source of the infection. We do not believe this will be a problem for Missouri schools," said Bill Pohl, director of school food services for the state education department.

"Our office has received dozens of calls today from local school officials, cafeteria managers, and parents," Pohl said. □

Freshmen legislators donate to Sears trust

The Missouri House Freshmen Caucus raised more than \$3,000 for the Sears Children Education Trust in March, announced caucus leader Randall Relford (D-Cameron).

The group, which sponsored a post-St. Patrick's Day dance in Jefferson City, decided to donate the proceeds from ticket sales to the trust fund set up for the children of the late Rep. Jim Sears.

Sears, who represented the first district in northeast Missouri, was killed in a one-car accident on Nov. 27, leaving behind his wife, Deborah, and their two young children, Kelsey and Rodney.

The trust fund was established in February by the leaders of the Missouri House after Sears' death to benefit his children and make it possible for them to receive higher education.

"This was a truly bipartisan effort by the freshmen members of the House to help out the children of our lost colleague," Relford said. "Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, and it was all for a great cause." □

Youngest lottery winner dreams of convertible

A Gladstone woman became the Missouri Lottery's youngest millionaire when her ticket matched all six Missouri Lotto numbers.

Alicia Herrera, 23, said she plans to use some of her winnings to buy a 1973 yellow Corvette convertible — made the same year she was born.

Herrera has hopes of starting her own business sometime in the future. Some of her more immediate plans include purchasing a Harley Davidson motorcycle and her first home.

"You never think it's going to happen [to you]," Herrera said after the prize was awarded.

After hearing that a winning ticket had been sold at a store she stops at daily, she checked her tickets and discovered she was the new millionaire.

Herrera, who works for the General Motors plant in Fairfax, Kan., will receive approximately \$250,000 a year before taxes for the next 20 years.

The store where she bought her ticket, Country Club Apple Market on Vivion Road in Kansas City, will receive a bonus of \$50,000, equal to 1 percent of the jackpot, for selling the ticket.

She is the 90th Missouri Lotto millionaire and the 121st Missouri Lottery-made millionaire. □

SENATE

Academy would aid process

By TAMMY SPICER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —

Knowledge is power, and with the introduction of term limits into the Missouri legislature, some of that power will be lost.

That is one of the main reasons for a bill sponsored by Sen. Doyle Childers (R-Reeds Spring) that calls for the establishment of a Legislative Academy.

"Last year, as a result of all of the discussion about term limits," Childers said. "I realized that we had to do something to offset the loss of knowledge and expertise."

In the past, new legislators were trained by the "old-timers" in the ways of the Capitol. Things like legislation history, budget issues, and other areas of expertise will be lost when term limits come into effect.

Childers said he envisions bringing in Senators and Representatives who have retired from the legislature and having them share their wisdom with the freshman members.

"The only people who will have that knowledge will be the lobbyists and bureaucracy," Childers said. "Both of those groups have a vested interest. I would like for our state representatives to be able to make informed decisions without relying on bureaucracy and lobbyists."

Currently, new legislators are offered a "Freshman Tour." It involves spending a week at the Capitol, meeting all the state department heads and learning the process, and a bus tour of state facilities, including various colleges and universities and prisons.

"There was a tremendous amount of information packed into two weeks," said Rep. Judy Berkstresser (R-Crane), who is serving her first term in office. "It's really too much; there is no way a brand new person can take all that in."

The proposed Legislative Academy would last for not fewer than 12 weeks. Legislators would not be required to attend, and they

“

The only people who will have the knowledge will be the lobbyists and bureaucracy.

Sen. Doyle Childers
R-Reeds Spring

”

could choose what sessions of the academy they would like to attend, according to Childers.

Members could attend after the adjournment of their first legislative session, which would give them time to find their weaknesses and strengths, Childers said.

"It would help to have it after we gain at least some experience," Berkstresser said. "When you are so fresh and new you don't even know the questions to ask."

While the academy has many positive aspects, it will make it more difficult for the freshmen legislators to all gather at one time, Berkstresser said.

"Generally, everybody goes on the bus tour," she said. "It really develops a camaraderie and bond with people. I don't know if you could develop that sort of a relationship during a 12-week academy. I'd hate to see that opportunity lost."

The bill has been receiving strong support from members as they get more familiar with the concept, Childers said.

"I don't know if it will pass this legislative session," Childers said. "But if it doesn't get through this session I will get more sponsors for next year." □

3 MARKS THE SPOT



Marking the place for a group of high school sophomores, Evelyn Barnhart, of the Jefferson City Janus Club, waits with her sign for the students to gather.

TAMMY SPICER/The Chart

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Independent joins legislature

By TAMMY SPICER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —

It's not an April Fools' joke, but for the first time in more than 80 years an empty House of Representatives seat was filled by neither a Republican or a Democrat.

Rep.-elect Denny Merideth was elected as an independent candidate April 1 in a special election for the 162nd district.

"This campaign was about people, not politics," Merideth said. "The victory belongs to the men and women of this district who worked, supported, and voted for me to represent their interests in the state legislature."

The district, located in the southeast bootheel, is traditionally a democratic stronghold.

The vacancy occurred when Donald Prost resigned his position in January to become director of legislative research.

Merideth's opponent in the election was Democrat Shirley Kay Davis. According to Merideth, Davis was strongly backed by Gov. Mel Carnahan, the Democrat state party, and Democrat House leadership.

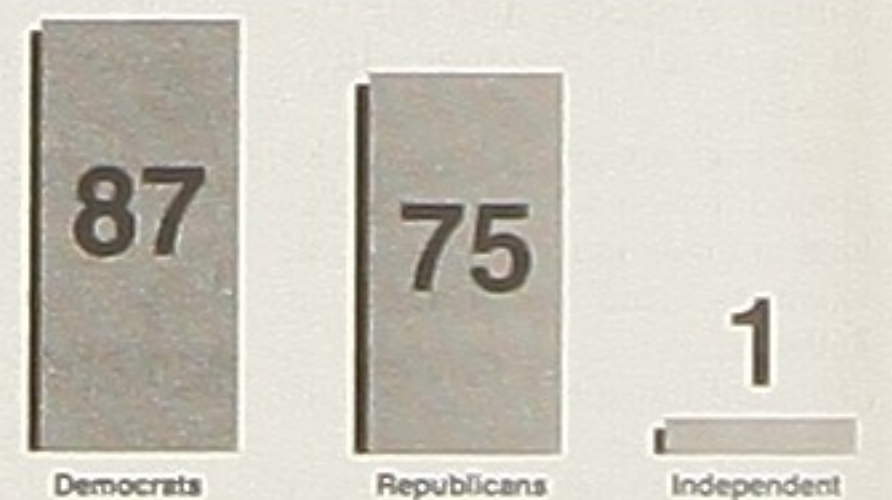
After the election results were tallied, Merideth said, "Tonight the people triumphed over special interests and good government triumphed over partisanship. We scored a stunning victory for good government."

The last time a party other than the Democratic or Republican held a seat in the House was in 1915 when the Progressive Party was elected, according to Anne Rottmann, of the legislative library.

According to election results, Merideth received 3,233

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

■ For the first time in over 80 years, a party other than Democrat or Republican will be represented in the House.



TAMMY SPICER/The Chart

of the 6,165 votes cast. He will be officially sworn into office on Friday.

"I ran as an independent and I will continue to serve as an independent. I am a conservative who believes that we should put the people first," Merideth said. "I will vote for greater education funding for rural schools and tougher penalties for drug pushers. I will fight to reduce waste and inefficiency and put the savings into education and other programs that will benefit the people of this state."

If in fact he does vote conservative, it will hurt the Democrats, who traditionally have support in that region, said Rep. Gary Burton (R-Joplin).

"I understand he will be fairly conservative, but only time will tell," Burton said. "If he is liberal or middle-of-the-road, it won't affect things much."

A former fighter pilot and Air Force commander, lives in Pemisot County with his wife, Heidi, and their four children, where he and his brother manage their family farm.

"I hope my race will send a signal to the politicians in Jefferson City that it is time to put people before partisanship," Merideth said. "When I cast my vote, it will not be a party vote or a special interest vote but a vote for the taxpayers, students, workers, and families of Missouri." □

FINANCIAL AID

Bill offers name change

By TAMMY SPICER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. —

College students may no longer be able to apply for the Missouri Student Grant Program. That is because it may be renamed the Charles Gallagher Student Financial Assistance Program.

Gallagher, who passed away last year, was a Missouri lobbyist who has been credited with first establishing the program.

"I was very fond of Chuck," said Sen. Franc Flotron (R-Chesterfield) who is cosponsoring the name change bill with Sen. John Schneider (D-Florissant) and Sen. Anita Yeckel (R-St. Louis). "Preparing a eulogy for his memorial service was an extraordinarily difficult thing."

"While writing it, I began to think about how else we could remember Chuck," Flotron said. "And I realized how appropriate it would be to name one of the superb acts of his life after him."

The bill calls for the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and all approved public and private institutions in Missouri to refer to the program as the Charles Gallagher Student Financial Assistance Program in their scholarship literature.

However, this will not apply until the literature would normally be replaced. This means that name change would not cost any money, which is one of the reasons there has been so much support for the proposal, according to Flotron.

"It will be appropriate for students who benefit from this program to know the name of the man who made it possible," Flotron said.

The bill was sent out of committee to the Senate floor as a consent bill, meaning there was no opposition. It was sent to the House of Representatives last month and Flotron doesn't expect anyone to speak against the bill.

"I can't imagine anyone opposing it," Flotron said. "The chances are real high that it will pass this legislative session."

Gallagher's wife, Deanna, has taken on some of her husband's lobbying efforts, said Donna Mueller, a Senate secretary who knew Gallagher more than 15 years.

"The name change would be very fitting," Mueller said. "But it is still not enough for all of his efforts, years of service, and quality legislation he helped enact. It is more of just a token to him." □

Sports SCOPE

Hey, wake me when spring is finally over

Snore, snore, snore.... I'm not alone here. Some of my colleagues and I have been discussing the lack of excitement brought to sports writers during the spring athletic seasons.

But, in my new and improved effort to look at life in a positive manner, I have decided to find the highlights of spring sports.



Nick Parker
Associate Editor

Baseball is by far one of my favorite sports. Here's why:
1. Hot dogs
2. Mut-

burgers (not sold in stores; available only at Joe Becker Stadium, Joplin, Mo.)

3. Head coach Warren Turner, who could quite possibly be the most popular and successful sports figure in the four-state area.

4. Except for April, it's warm outside during the games (while writing this the temperature outside is really, really cold).

5. Have I mentioned the food aspect yet?

Softball

1. Two words: Pat Lipira

2. The Lady Lions seem to have a certain spirit about them; they really love the game and have fun playing it. At the end of every game they all huddle up and do this little chant. I'm not quite sure what they are saying, but it sounds really cool and it is easy to see they are having a good time.

3. Soon, while watching the game in the only place with more wind than Chicago, Lea Kungle Field, I will be able to sit comfortably in the new and improved, and warm, press box.

4. The new clubhouse will feature a concessions stand.

5. Coming soon, hot dogs.

Track and Field

1. Perhaps the possibility of a pro football career has sparked something in senior James Thrash, as he is almost totally dominating the conference.

2. I give men's coach Tom Rutledge a hard time, but the truth is I actually like the guy. (Warning: I may not admit this later.)

3. The Lady Lions appear to be finally running somewhere.

4. Hot dogs

5. Nachos

6. Tennis, yes folks there is a tennis team, and it's been here quite a while. Head coach Jill Fisher was a player for Southern during her time as a student and now has returned as a coach.

7. Golf, I wish I could hit the links every day. Oh well, I'm horrible anyway. I finally shot par on a hole just a couple of months ago. In case you're interested, it was the 18th at Schifferdecker in Joplin, Mo.

8. Some general cool things about spring sports:

1. The ballpark atmosphere is pretty cool.
2. Most of the time it is WARM.
3. Nachos
4. Hot dogs
5. Soda

There you have it, folks, the good, not the bad, nor the ugly. I searched long and I searched hard to find the best parts of Missouri Southern athletics. I hope I have enticed you to become a fan. See you at the ballpark; I'll buy you a Muttburger. ☐

P. Nicholas Parker

BASEBALL

Clutch play key in Lion victory

By NICK PARKER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With two wins over Truman State (2-10, 7-22) Wednesday, the Missouri Southern baseball team hopes to gain ground in the MIAA standings.

The Lions (11-6, 24-15-1) are currently fourth, behind Pittsburg State, Central Missouri State, and Emporia State.

Southern downed Truman State 12-9 and 8-3 at Joe Becker Stadium.

The win in the first game required some clutch play from the Lions, who twice bounced back from four-run deficits. Although Southern has seemingly made a habit of giving up runs in the early innings, head coach Warren Turner said he worries about his team's dependence on the comeback victory.

"We've been behind like that a lot," Turner said.

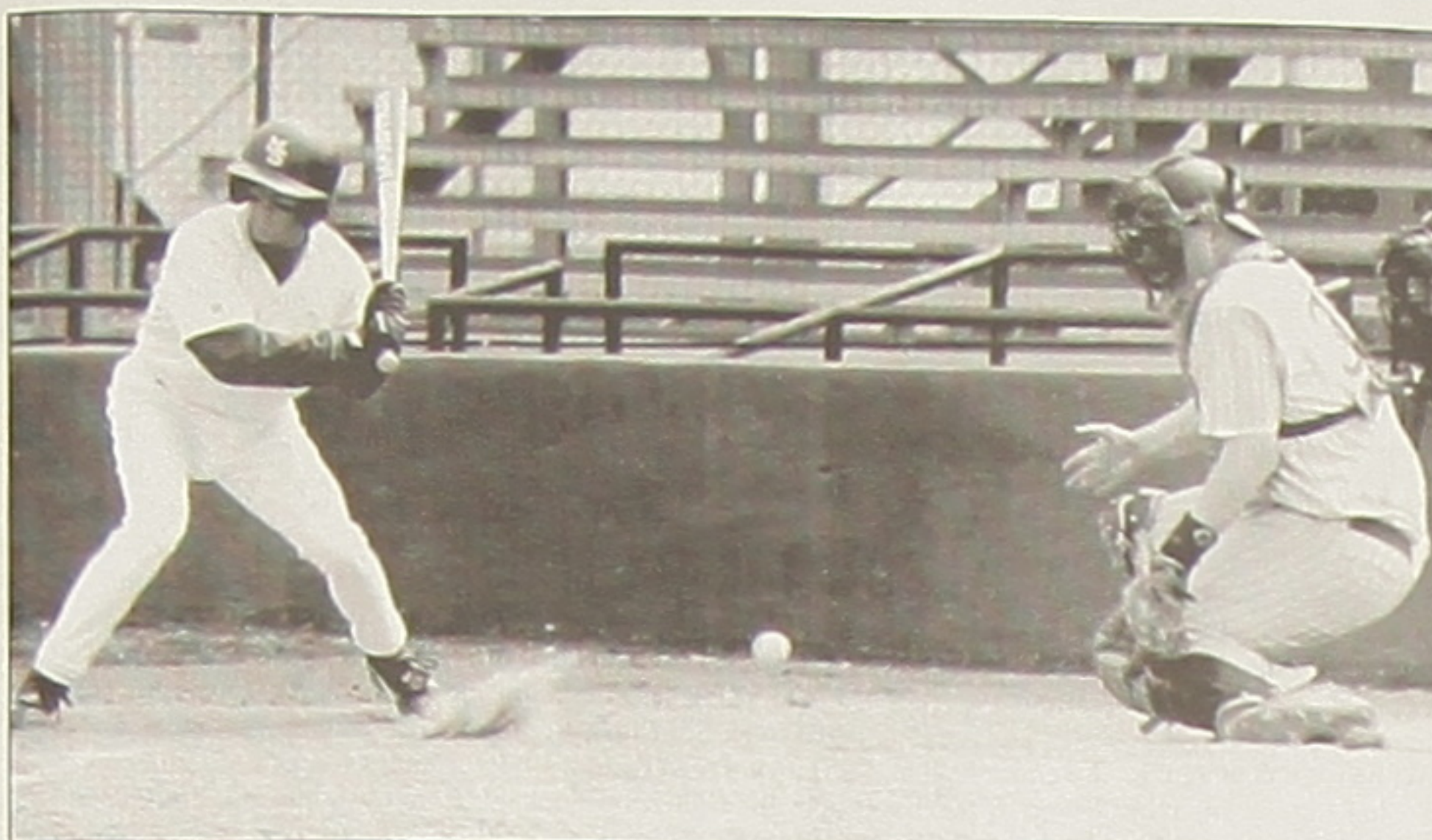
"We got up and were able to come back and get the win. We're not always going to come back. At

"We've been behind like that a lot. We got up and were able to come back and get the win. We're not always going to come back."

Warren Turner
Lion baseball coach

Missouri Western we weren't able to do it, at Arkansas we came back from 0-5 and tied it before losing 12-8."

Junior shortstop Bobby Braeckel said there was a little bit of luck mixed in with the Lion's determi-



JOHN SMITH/The Chart

Junior outfielder Stephen Crane watches a pitch hit the dirt during Wednesday's sweep over Truman State. Southern will be in action again at home Friday against Pittsburg State at Joe Becker Stadium.

nation. Combined this helped the team battle back for the win.

"They kicked the ball around a bit," Braeckel said. "We put the ball in play and it seemed to fall in the right spots. We just wound up on the better end of the it."

Turner said his team needs to keep winning to build momentum going into the final five conference games.

"We need to win games now," he

said. "Winning now gives us confidence going into the conference tourney. We just play it one game at a time."

"If we win, we win, then we move on to the next game. If we lose, we move on to the next game. There have been a lot of times where we've lost the first game of a double-header then come back to win the second game. We try to win without bragging and lose without crying."

Braeckel agreed with his coach.

"These two games (Wednesday's match-up with Truman) and the games coming up are big," Braeckel said. "We need to keep winning to get a good ranking in the conference. We need them to get a better seed for the conference tournament."

Three of the Lions' final games are at home against Pittsburg State (12-2, 31-9) this weekend. ☐

SOFTBALL

Rain, wind, cold weather cancel weekend tournament

Southern to face No. 1 ranked CMSU in MIAA matchup

By JASON OWEN
SPORTS EDITOR

Rain, rain, and more unseasonably cold rain brought the MIAA's interdivisional softball play to a halt last weekend.

The games, scheduled to be played in Shawnee, Kan., were to feature a full slate of conference match-ups.

The Lady Lions have not played

since they dropped both games of a double-header to Pittsburg State on April 1.

They will finally be returning to the softball diamond today as they will face the No. 1-ranked Central Missouri State University Lady Mules.

According to pitcher Jane Roberts, the break in play should prove to be positive for her and her teammates.

"It has really given us an opportunity to regroup as a team," she said.

"We were certainly disappointed when we heard that the games [last weekend] were rained out, but the time off has

given us a chance to reevaluate what our goals should be and then a chance to try to implement them."

Second baseman Jennifer Jimerson said the disappointment of not being able to play was something the team had to overcome.

"We were all really fired up to play, and so we have had to come down from that," she said. "It has really been a good thing for us, though, because we have channeled that energy into some really good practices this week. We really want it now."

Roberts said today's game with CMSU would be a good chance

for Southern to "make a statement" in the MIAA.

"People have this idea that we are a young team, and that is why we are struggling, when honestly we are not," she said. "We just have two new players, and it is not like they are dragging us down or anything. If we can go out and beat the No. 1-ranked team, then that should send the message that we are wanting to send to the rest of the conference."

With a 12-10 overall record and a 4-4 conference mark, the Lady Lions might not be seen as a serious contender for the MIAA crown.

Roberts, however, believes Southern has every opportunity to win an MIAA title.

"If we play to our potential, we can beat anybody," she said. "It is just a matter of getting our confidence up. We have to do a better job of keeping each other up."

"One person will get down, and that will get all of the rest of us down. If we can just get past that, then there is no one who can beat us."

"We just have to come together and gel as a team. We have not been able to do that as of yet, but hopefully this time off has helped us to do just that. ☐

TRACK & FIELD



JOHN SMITH/The Chart

Sonia Blacketer (right) leads her teammates at the Radio Shack Crossroads Invitational Friday. Blacketer placed first in the 5000 meter.

Southern shines at home meet

600 high schoolers attend competition at Hughes Stadium

By JOE ECKHOFF
STAFF WRITER

Lion track athletes had a chance to show off their talents in front of a home crowd last weekend as Missouri Southern played host for the Radio Shack Crossroads Invitational.

"We have one of the best tracks around, and it was good to perform at home in front of our loyal followers," said Lion coach Tom Rutledge.

He said more than 100 people assisted with the meet.

"We couldn't have had this meet without the support we had," Rutledge said.

"Rain or shine, our meets are taken care of."

Provisional marks were set by James Thrash in the 100-meter run, Daren Simmons in the 110-meter high hurdles, and the 400-meter relay team of Daren Simmons, Thrash, Jason Zurba, and Darelle Simmons.

Jon Wilks turned in a first-place finish in the 1,600-meter run, and freshman Doug Culver picked up his first win in the shot put.

The Lady Lions also had some big performances at the meet. Sonia Blacketer won the 5,000-meter run and placed second in the 3,000-meter run. Tina Keller set a provisional mark with her 1:03.62 finish in the 400-meter low hurdles.

Stephanie Wainscott placed first in the shot put and came in second in the discus and the hammer throw.

Lady Lion coach Patty Vavra

said it helped for the local athletes to perform in front of family and friends.

"When you're on your home track, you're more relaxed and more motivated to do well," she said.

In a seldom-seen event, Sandy Richardson won the women's pole vault exhibition. Vavra believes the event will become a regular part of track competition in the next few years.

Last weekend, Southern hosted a high school track meet with more than 600 athletes from 28 schools in attendance.

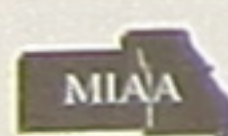
"We were fortunate with the high school meet," Vavra said. "The community and staff received many compliments and gave a good impression for Missouri Southern."

The Lions will be in action Saturday at the Oklahoma University Invitational. ☐

Southern Scoreboard

The numbers and facts every Lion fan should know.

Lion Baseball



MIAA Standings

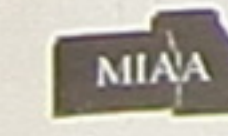


Southern Stats

| | (conf, overall) |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Pittsburg State | 12-2, 31-9 |
| 2. Central Missouri | 10-2, 19-8 |
| 3. Emporia State | 8-3, 18-8 |
| 4. Missouri Southern | 9-6, 22-15 |
| 5. Washburn | 7-5, 19-14 |
| 6. Missouri-Rolla | 8-9, 11-11 |
| 7. Southwest Baptist | 3-7, 13-11 |
| 8. Missouri Western | 3-7, 13-13 |
| 9. Lincoln | 3-8, 9-16 |
| 10. Northwest Missouri | 3-9, 11-17 |
| 11. Truman | 2-10, 7-22 |

| Batting Average |
|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Esposito, Daniel, Sr., PSU - .526 |
| 2. Contreras, Oscar, Jr., ESU - .482 |
| 3. Goodwin, Dave, Jr., CMSU - .447 |
| 4. Shorter, Brad, Jr., PSU - .438 |
| Runs Batted In |
| 1. Esposito, Daniel, Sr., PSU - 59 |
| 2. Barlet, Jeremy, Jr., ESU - 38 |
| 3. Contreras, Oscar Jr., ESU - 36 |
| 4. Rafflen, Chris, So., MSSC - 38 |
| Earned Run Average |
| 1. Cronk, Daryl, So., PSU - 2.44 |
| 2. Bybec, Mark, Jr., PSU - 2.86 |
| 3. Winkelman, Tom, So., UMR - 1.05 |

Lady Lion Softball



MIAA Standings



Southern Stats

| | (conf, overall) |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Central Missouri | 4-0, 16-6 |
| 2. Pittsburg State | 5-1, 16-9 |
| 3. Southwest Baptist | 3-1, 17-7 |
| 4. Washburn | 3-3, 18-15 |
| 5. Missouri Southern | 4-4, 12-10 |
| 6. Missouri-Rolla | 4-4, 24-12 |
| 7. Emporia State | 3-3, 13-10 |
| 8. Northwest Missouri | 3-3, 14-12 |
| 9. Truman State | 2-4, 14-8 |
| 10. Missouri Western | 1-3, 19-11 |
| 11. Lincoln | 0-6, 4-20 |

| Batting Average |
|--|
| 1. Graham, Shelly, Fr., PSU - .537 |
| 2. Sullivan, Megan, Fr., TSU - .485 |
| 3. Gunn, Shannon, Fr., MWSC - .471 |
| 4. Alt, Becca, Jr., UMR - .443 |
| Runs Batted In |
| 1. Temple, Allison, So., ESU - 30 |
| 2. Atkins, Stacey, Jr., SBU - 26 |
| 3. Urquhart, Amanda, Fr., NWMSU - 24 |
| 4. Holthaus, Heather, So., ESU - 21 |
| Earned Run Average |
| 1. Trantham, Holly, Sr., MSSC - .58 |
| 2. Berg Mandee, Sr., CMSU - .97 |
| 3. Burngarner, Nickie, Sr., SBU - 1.44 |

This Week

- Thursday —
■ Softball Lady Lions at Central Missouri, 3 p.m.
Friday —
■ Baseball Lions vs. Pittsburg State, Joe Becker Stadium, 4 p.m.
■ Softball Lady Lions at Missouri Western Invitational, TBA.
Saturday —
■ Baseball Lions vs. Pittsburg State, Joe Becker Stadium, 1 p.m.
■ Softball Lady Lions at Missouri Western Invitational, TBA
■ Tuesday —
■ Tennis vs. Emporia State, Missouri Southern Tennis Courts, 10 a.m.

Catching the draft

Southern's former speedster Thrash hopes to live NFL dream next season

By NICK PARKER
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The quarterback drops back, a receiver sprints down the field, a defender anxiously bounces on his toes boisterously counting, "One Mississippi, two Mississippi, three Mississippi, four Mississippi, five Mississippi," then charges after the quarterback. From the moment of the first catch, first tackle, or first successful long bomb, many children are hooked on the pigskin.

It is in the backyard, in the street, or in some abandoned lot where dreams begin.

For many, this dream never goes beyond those games in the backyard. A few, though, make the decision to try a little competition and play the game in high school. Of those high school players, some are able to raise the stakes and take on some tougher competition in the collegiate ranks. After their senior collegiate season, most players watch their playing careers come to a close, but a select few are given a chance to play on.

Missouri Southern has seen 12 players drafted or signed as free agents with professional teams since 1970.

This year the College could see three more. Richard Jordan, defensive end and inside linebacker; James Thrash, wide receiver; and kicker Eric Jackson have caught the eye of several scouts throughout the National Football League.

For these three Lions, the reality of the dream hangs in the balance during the coming months. It all begins with the spring draft April 19-20.

For years, coaches have told their players they have what it takes to make it. They play on the dreams of their players and use them as tools to motivate players and make them work harder.

Thrash now finds himself only a few steps away from completing the dream.

"You know how high school coaches are; they say 'You got what it takes to go to the pros,'" Thrash said. "And even when I came here my freshman year Coach [Jon] Lantz was saying I had the chance to develop and even take it to the next level."

"I've thought about it before, but I didn't think it would actually happen until the beginning of my senior year. Then when I went to the Snow Bowl it really started sinking in that I might have a chance to go play at the next level."

A player's potential to make the NFL is sometimes noticeable in high school. Often it is these players who are recruited by NCAA Division I schools. Some are late bloomers and their potential is not seen until they enter the college ranks.

Lantz, Southern's head football coach, said in former Lion wide receiver Rod Smith the potential was obvious. Smith currently plays for the Denver Broncos.

"In Smith I saw the skill and potential," Lantz said.

"Rod was a dominant player; he still holds an NCAA record for most yards per catch in a season — 24 yards per catch. That means every time he touched the ball he went a fourth of

the length of the field." The potential in Thrash was harder to find. But as he developed, the coaches, as well as the scouts, began to take notice.

"Thrash has always had great talent, but he never really showed up on film as a dominant player," Lantz said. "He had spurts; he had a kick-off return against Rolla, he had a great game as a junior against Southwest Baptist when he broke his collar bone, he had spurts but not the consistency."

Thrash has difficulty remembering a time when he was not thinking of playing the game of football and getting paid for it. He said it was even there during infancy. Even if Thrash does not get chosen in the draft, he said he will try to make it as a free agent.

"Whenever I could talk is when I started dreaming about it," Thrash said. "My first words were probably football. I've got a baby picture of me when I was around 2 years old with a helmet and a football in my hands."

"I don't care what team; I just want to get a chance, that's all. I don't even have to go in the draft; it doesn't matter. If nothing else, I just want to be able to say I did get a chance to play. Words cannot explain how it would feel to get that chance. It would be fulfilling a lifelong dream of mine."

Since the start of its football season last fall, Southern has seen scouts from all around the NFL come to Joplin for a look.

With all the excitement going along with the possibility of a professional career, Thrash said his mother has helped him keep everything focused and still work toward his degree in criminal justice administration.

"You know how moms are," he said. "She wants me to graduate; that's the main thing. She says to keep things in perspective because you never know what can happen. She wants me getting my degree first of all."

Thrash and his family will be nervously watching the draft in his hometown of Wewoka, Okla.

Thrash said he has something to offer NFL teams, but he still knows he has some areas of his game to improve upon. The 6-foot-2 receiver said Southern's style of offense did not allow him the opportunity to rack up the numbers other receivers had last season.

"One of the scouts came in and told me not many guys can run a legit 4.4 (time in the 40) even in the pros," Thrash said. "It is odd me being as big as I am; I'm a 4.4 guy plus I weigh about 210. Speed and size is probably the biggest thing I offer."

"Probably running routes is the biggest thing I need to work on. One of the big questions is whether or not I can catch. They (the scouts) come in and what I do is catch about 200 balls during a workout."

"I didn't put up the numbers some guys did. Some guys had 85 catches for about a 1,000 yards, and I had like 40 for 700 yards."

Thrash actually finished the 1996 season with 44 catches for 694 yards and four touchdowns. He averaged 15.8 yards per catch.



Richard Jordan, former all-MIAA linebacker for Missouri Southern, hopes to menace NFL quarterbacks in the future. PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS INFORMATION

He also returned 10 kicks for 255 yards and a touchdown. Thrash's size and athletic abilities force Lantz to think he might have the ability to make it in the professional scene.

"With Thrash, it's potential with a capital 'P,'" Lantz said.

"He is one of the fastest guys to ever wear the green and gold. He is consistently down in the 4.4s on all of his 40s, and when you do that consistently it grabs their attention. A lot of guys can run a 4.49 one time, but they normally run a 4.6. James is consistently in the 4.4s every time. That is really impressive." □

Flash

James Thrash
Wide Receiver
Ht: 6-2 Wt: 198
Wewoka, Okla.



Career Statistics

| Year | G | No. | Yds | Avg. | TDs | YPG |
|------|----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|
| 1993 | 5 | 4 | 37 | 9.3 | 0 | 7.4 |
| 1994 | 10 | 18 | 289 | 16.1 | 2 | 28.9 |
| 1995 | 4 | 13 | 202 | 15.5 | 1 | 50.5 |
| 1996 | 10 | 44 | 694 | 15.8 | 4 | 69.4 |

DIRT



Richard Jordan
Linebacker
Ht: 6-2 Wt: 265
Vian, Okla.

Career Statistics

| Year | G | UT | AT | TOT | Int. |
|------|----|----|----|-----|------|
| 1993 | 5 | 38 | 30 | 68 | 1-31 |
| 1994 | 10 | 33 | 47 | 80 | 0-0 |
| 1995 | 4 | 56 | 53 | 109 | 2-25 |
| 1996 | 10 | 86 | 50 | 136 | 6-18 |



Former Missouri Southern football wide receiver James Thrash is hoping to be selected in this year's NFL draft. FILE PHOTO

MISSOURI CONSTITUTION TEST

For students who need to take the test on the Missouri Constitution, please observe the following schedule.

Lecture

Tuesday, April 22, 1997 - 12:20 p.m. - WH 210

Test

Tuesday, April 29, 1997 - 12:20 p.m. - WH 210

All out-of-state students who plan to graduate in May, 1997, July, 1997 or December 1997 who have not taken U.S. Gov't. or State and Local Gov't. in a Missouri College should see Pat Martin, Room H-318 on or before April 17 to sign up to take the test.

Please note: Students taking this test must pay a \$ 5.00 fee to the Business Office H-210 prior to taking the test; and present your receipt to the instructor when you go to the test room.

THE CHART

The following positions will be available at The Chart beginning the Fall Semester of 1997:

- Ad Designers
- Graphic Artists
- Advertising Sales Representatives
- Photographers

Interested applicants should see Chad Stebbins in Webster Hall, Rm. 332 or call 625-9736.

Part-time Mail Clerks

Afternoons, work from 2:30 -5:30 p.m. Mon.-Friday sorting mail. Could get up to 20 hours work if you are wanting more work. Apply in person Mon.-Thursday 8-10 a.m., 1-3 p.m. or Monday evening 5-6 p.m.

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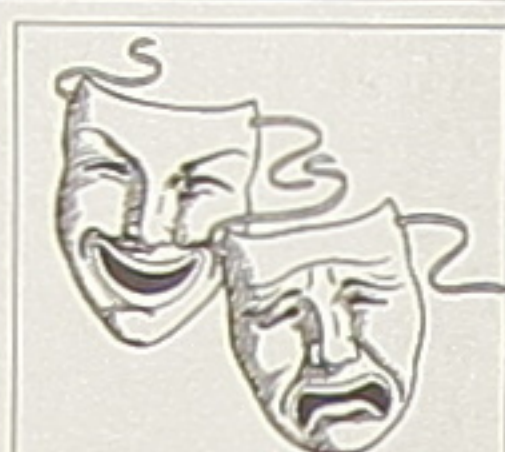
Arts ETC.

Page 12

Thursday April 10, 1997

Coming Attractions

On Campus



Theatre

■ April 25-26—
Anton Chekhov's
'The Sea Gull' in
Taylor Auditorium

TAYLOR AUDITORIUM

April 10—Jazz Band Concert
April 30—Symphonic Band
Concert
May 1—Hanover Band
Concert - Nicholas McGegan
May 5—Orchestra Concert
May 8—Choir Concert

WEBSTER AUDITORIUM

April 11—Suzuki Violin
Students & Keynote Club
Piano Recital
April 13—Joplin Piano
Teachers - Honors Recital
April 22—Faculty Recital -
Dr. Henry Jones
April 29—Gloria Jardon's
Piano Students Recital
Concert
May 4—Jazz in Joplin - Trio
Grande

Joplin



Spiva

■ Through April
27—Spiva Annual
art exhibit in Joplin

THE BYPASS

624-9095
April 12—Comedy Night
April 16—Ian Moore
April 18—Maurice John Vaughn

CHAMPS

782-4944
April 11-12—Night Train
April 16—Aunt Sally Band
SPIVA CENTER FOR THE
ARTS

623-0183
March 14-April 27—Spiva
Annual to be held in Joplin
MEMORIAL HALL

623-3254
April 12—Sawyer Brown with
Crystal Bernard & Kevin Sharp
April 21—U.S. Army Band
April 25—Twilla Paris
GUITARS & CADILLACS
659-9870
May 13—Little River Band
SKATEPARK
April 12—V.D., U.S.M.C., Initial
Detonation and Satan's
Icecream Truck

Kansas City

KEMPER ARENA
April 12—Phil Collins
ARROWHEAD STADIUM
May 19—U2

Springfield

SHRINE MOSQUE
April 15—Beck with Atari
Teenage Riot and The Roots

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Band to play tonight

By MICHELLE CONTY
ASSISTANT ARTS ETC. EDITOR

Renowned trombonist Robert Holden is to conduct the Missouri Southern jazz band during a concert at 7:30 tonight in Taylor Auditorium.

"This concert is a kick-off for a series of concerts we are giving," said Robert Meeks, assistant professor of music.

The concert will consist of a variety of jazz selections, including "Bye Bye Blackbird," "Stick With It," "My Funny Valentine," "Harlem Nocturne," "Night and Day," "Kinda Nice," and "Route 66."

"I started playing the sax because I enjoyed the sound of other players and it allows me to express my feelings in a different media," said Wesley Smith, sophomore music major.

Holden, an alumnus of Joplin Junior College, will be guest conductor for two of his arrangements, "The Way We Were" and "Three Plays for a Quarter." Holden retired as band director at



MICHELLE CONTY/The Chart

Sam Caudle (right), freshman music education major, practices for the Missouri Southern's jazz band's upcoming concert in the band practice room Tuesday. The concert, which will be conducted by Southern alum Robert Holden, is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today in Taylor Auditorium.

Parkview High School in Springfield. Bands under his direction received numerous "I" ratings at band competitions and served as warm-up bands for such name musicians as Count Basie. He is a professional trombonist and currently conducts the Springfield Youth Symphony.

"He (Holden) is renowned in the band world and has several arrangements out," Meeks said.

Meeks and Holden have known each other professionally for a number of years.

The jazz band has been practicing twice a week since the start of the semester.

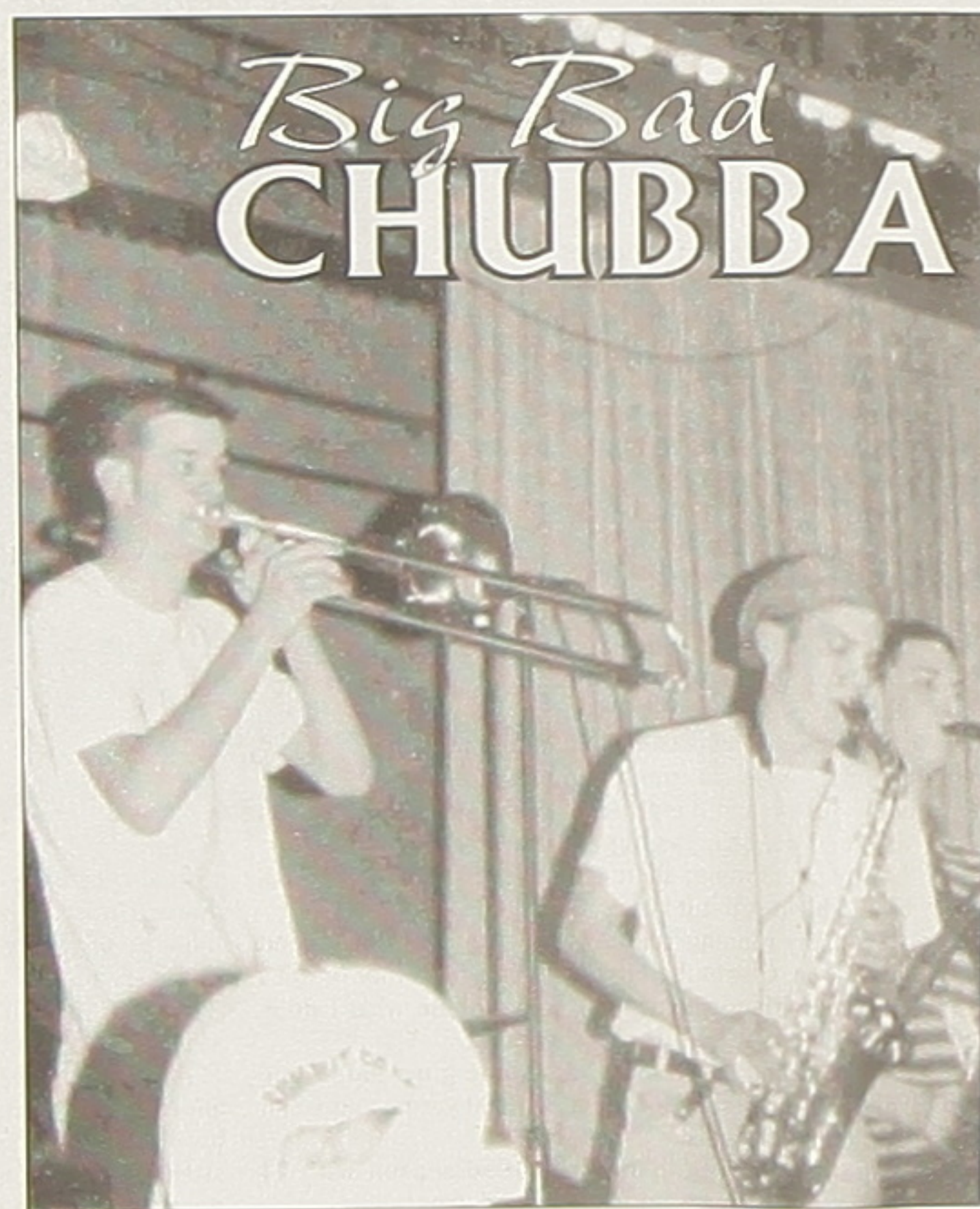
"This is a lab situation for those who want to learn to play jazz," Meeks said.

"I like it (jazz band); it's very educational in the areas of performance, technique, and jazz improv," said trumpet player Jeff Taylor, junior music education major.

The next performance will be with the Carthage High School jazz band at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Carthage High School auditorium.

The third concert will be performed with the East Newton High School jazz band at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 24 in the East Newton gymnasium. □

JOPLIN MUSIC SCENE



KATE WALTERS/The Chart

Big Bad Chubba's horn section plays during the band's final show, a benefit concert to charity funds for Project Graduation, at Joplin Junior High School.

Band plays farewell concert

By KEVIN COLEMAN
ARTS ETC. EDITOR

Local ska band Big Bad Chubba played its last benefit and last show Friday night.

Joplin Junior High School's auditorium was the setting for the four-band show to raise money for Project Graduation, an annual nonalcoholic party for graduating high school seniors. More than 300 people attended the concert.

Members of Big Bad Chubba had been talking about playing a farewell show since the first of the year. They just weren't sure when it would be scheduled.

"We wanted to do a last show in April," said Tyler Huffman, Chubba's lead guitarist and Missouri Southern sophomore special education major. "The Project Graduation committee talked to us a long time ago about playing a show for them, but it didn't look like it was going to pull through."

Because members were unsure of playing the benefit, Huffman said the band scheduled and canceled two other possible show dates.

"Then before we knew it, we had this show," he said. "So we decided we would end it with this. We thought that we would get a better crowd and it would be more publicized."

Besides Chubba, the night's entertainment included blues and ska by the Rowskabouts, Stale

Mary, and Smoot Mahuti. The audience, like at the other Big Bad Chubba shows, included people from junior high ages through college students and even up to people in their 50s and 60s.

"We brought in about \$1,200," said Brenda Porter, fund-raiser organizer. "We had a lot of parents' support."

This was not Chubba's first time donating its time and energy to a local cause. The band helped organize last spring's Local Musicians For Children benefit concert for S.A.F.E., a Joplin support coalition for victims of sexual abuse. For that event, 30 bands came in for a four-night show.

Big Bad Chubba has been entertaining local audiences for nearly four years.

The band's high-energy music mix of reggae and punk with horns, known as ska, has packed some of the local clubs to standing-room only capacity.

"I'm kind of sad [about the breakup]," Huffman said, "but it can't last forever."

The demise of Big Bad Chubba is an evolutionary step for members of the band. They have already started writing material for a new band that will still include most of the same lineup.

"I'm going to be in it (the new band) until August, then I'm moving to Columbia and hopefully the rest of the guys will keep it going," Huffman said. □

"I'm kind of sad. But it can't last forever."

Tyler Huffman
Band member

MOVIE REVIEW

IN YOUR EYE



KiKi
Coffman
Staff Writer

Those expecting an action-packed, adrenaline-pumping, heart-throbbing, and earth-shattering experience may as well take their time getting to the kino (German word for "movie house"), because *The Devil's Own* ain't sold out and the line isn't long.

Even Pitt junkies, with their adoring pre-pubescent eyes, have to admit that this movie doesn't quite fulfill all hopes.

The opening scene seems promising with its lush grays and blues and the stereotypical rugged, old boat bobbing along on dank and dismal waters. A steady Irish hum marches with the scene change on the screen. A fisherman and his young son stomp from the wet and

whistling Irish moors into a cozy cottage filled with the expected adoring family. The son has done an excellent job with his fishing, says the father. And as the family bows its head for dinner prayers, I wonder, "could it be that this star-studded cast is about to grant me admission into a subtle and sensitive movie full of meaning and..." Enter the masked police officers toting black, shiny guns.

They pump the praying father full of lead. (Groan.) Sadly, this is the most dramatic scene in the whole enchilada.

Come to find out, the young fisherman's son (Brad Pitt), who witnessed his own father's death, is now (you guessed it) the rebel leader of a radical Irish

Republican Army group. And is it any surprise that after coming to America under much pretense, it is the trusty, "clean" cop (Harrison Ford) and the cop's family whom he takes up residence with. Ironically, the cop looks an awful lot like the Irish rebel's dead father. So a match is made! It's not that the characters aren't believable, but it isn't a sign of good acting when people all over the theater are straining to hear old "Springfield Brad" slip up on his Irish brogue, or craning necks to see Ford slide into that "Indiana smile."

The sad fact is that the folks who put out this number had a good roll call. Too bad the students didn't study. I hate to

say bad things about a show, but I get a little angry when a couple of well-paid, perfectly capable actors put only mild effort into a film that I can only describe as a display of entertaining mediocrity. That's not to say that all the actors were saps. Ford's unfortunate police side-kick did a great job, as did Pitt's Irish girlfriend and his partner in crime. The film's plot, though the story is lukewarm and easy to guess, focuses on the not-off-featured religious and political violence happening in Ireland, which gave a much needed uniqueness to the picture. This was a happy discovery after viewing a few too many flicks based on computer warfare and hijackings. □

'Devil's Own' is not a normal Pitt flick